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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Blow to UK PM Starmer as def secy John Healey quits, saying govt is not willing to spend enough on military at a time of 'rising threats', **P 15**

3 Indians confirmed killed in US strike on tanker off Oman; 3rd vessel attacked

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New Delhi: Three merchant ships with Indian crew members have come under attack from the US Navy off the Oman coast in the last four days, resulting in the death of three Indians, said govt, which lodged a strong protest with US and asserted attacks should stop. The number of Indian seafarers killed has increased to seven since the West Asia conflict broke out on Feb 28.

▶Edit: Our Boys, At Sea

This is also for the first time that India has acknowledged US Navy targeting the ships. While two Palau-flagged oil tankers — Marivex and Settebello — came under attack on June 8 and 10, Guinea-Bissau-flagged bitumen tanker 'MT Jalveer', with 20 Indians, was attacked on Thursday.

Shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal tweeted, "It is deeply unfortunate to learn of the tragic incident aboard Palau-flagged MT Settebello. Sadly, three Indian seafarers initially reported missing are now confirmed dead after bodies have been located and identified. This is a profound loss to our maritime family." He said govt stands firmly with the bereaved and is fully committed to supporting the next of kin.

▶Subject to sanctions, P 11

TRUMP CLAIMS IRAN 'SETTLEMENT'

- India has **enough fertiliser stock to meet demand** for ongoing kharif season, subsidy estimates could be revised downwards, says govt
- US Prez Trump says 'great settlement' made with Iran, Strait of Hormuz to be opened soon after. Adds that **deal might be signed over the weekend in Europe**
- Scott Bessent says **US will extract funds from frozen Iranian accounts** to offset costs of damage to its allies

Photo: IANS

'MT Jalveer', with 20 Indians, was struck on Thursday

Navy removes unexploded warhead from struck ship

Surendra Singh & Disney Tom

In a risky operation on the high seas, Indian Navy safely disposed of an unexploded warhead recovered from the fuel storage compartment of a missile-hit crude oil tanker 50 nautical miles off the Kochi coast. The operation was conducted when the vessel was sailing to Kochi from UAE's Fujairah, the defence ministry said on Thursday.

The Navy responded when the Marshall Islands-flagged MT Olympic Life reported an explosion on its port side aft at 09.45 UTC (3.15pm IST) on May 26 while sailing around 60 nautical miles east of Oman, as per UK Maritime Trade Operations data. It is still not known who fired the missile. While reporting about the unexploded ordnance, MT Olympic Life, which can carry roughly two million barrels of crude oil, continued towards Kochi. MoD said there was no Indian among the crew.

The Navy team adopted a deliberate and phased approach to ensure the safety of the ship, its crew and surrounding port infrastructure.

▶Breached hull, P 11

Ease compliance burden for investors, PM advises states

Dipak Dash & Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: Heed investor feedback and focus on easing the compliance burden, as tax benefits and free land alone are not sufficient to attract investment. This was the strong message from PM Narendra Modi to states during the governing council meeting of NITI Aayog on Thursday as he sought to position India as an attractive investment destination with strong economic fundamentals amid challenges in several economies.

The Prime Minister's warning was rooted in the experience of overseas investors who want to invest but are wary of the compliance burden in some states.

Addressing a press meet, NITI Aayog vice-chairman Ashok Lahiri said the PM urged states and Union territories to turn India into a big investment hub. An official statement said states were urged to attract investments from partner countries.

▶Global best practices, P 8

Shivakumar gifted Modi a statue of social reformer Basavanna after NITI Aayog meeting in Delhi

DKS attends NITI summit, seeks ₹26k cr for B'luru

Bengaluru: In its first direct interaction with Centre in two years, state govt led by DK Shivakumar participated in NITI Aayog governing council meeting in Delhi Thursday. He later met PM Modi seeking approvals and funds for major state projects, **reports Manu Aiyappa Kanathanda**.

Karnataka's memorandum to the PM flagged pending central grants of Rs 2,860 crore under the 15th Finance Commission for gram panchayats and Rs 26,000 crore as special assistance for Bengaluru infrastructure

▶Economic contributions, P 8

Indian held in US for $100m bank fraud

An Indian-American was arrested in California for allegedly defrauding a bank of nearly $100 million by manipulating title records of insurance policies. **P15**

SUV kills injured biker, 4 helping him

Five people died and four were injured when an SUV ploughed into a group of people helping a biker hit by a dumper on Gonda-Lucknow highway Thursday. TNN

Anti-Abhishek chorus grows in TMC: It's me or him, Kalyan tells Mamata

Kolkata: TMC veteran and Mamata Banerjee loyalist **Kalyan Banerjee** escalated the party's turmoil Thursday, publicly challenging the former CM to choose between him and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee after he and son Sirsanya were allegedly sidelined while handling Abhishek's "Signgate" case in Calcutta HC, **report Srishti Lakhotia & Krishnendu Bandopadhyay**.

"He has become so arrogant... does not respect anyone. That is why I have stepped aside. This morning I told Didi: choose between me and Abhishek Banerjee," Kalyan, a lawyer and MP for Serampore, told reporters, declaring neither he nor his son would represent the TMC national general secretary and Diamond Harbour MP.

Another headache surfaced for TMC when Kolkata ex-mayor Firhad Hakim refused to explain his Monday meeting with leader of opposition Ritabrata Banerjee. Asked whether he was joining the rebel camp, Hakim, leaving KMC HQ after a monsoon readiness meeting chaired by KMC commissioner Smita Pandey, replied: "Please do not ask me anything on this. I do not want to say anything."

▶Cannot work, P 8

Tree falling on vehicle not MV accident: SC

Supreme Court ruled that injuries caused by a tree falling on a vehicle do not qualify under Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, as they are neither caused by nor arise from the vehicle's use. A Bengaluru auto passenger injured by a falling tree branch sought Rs 50 lakh compensation, but HC awarded him Rs 17.5 lakh. The court also said civic bodies can't maintain health of every tree. **P 3**

Kharge among 4 elected to RS unopposed from K'taka

Bengaluru: AICC chief **Mallikarjun Kharge** was among four candidates declared elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Karnataka Thursday after the withdrawal deadline ended and only four nominees remained in the fray for 4 seats.

▶RS polls fizzle into unopposed wins, P 8

Other elected members are Mansoor Ali Khan, educationist and son of former Union minister K Rahman Khan; Congress media and publicity department chief Pawan Khera, both Congress; and M Nagaraja, a former KPSC member and lone nominee from BJP.

Officials said the June 18 poll became uncontested after scrutiny led to rejection of an independent candidate's nomination, leaving only four valid candidates in contest.

Gunmen kill two, torch Kuki village in Manipur dist

Two Kuki Baptist Church leaders were killed and two others were injured after gunmen attacked Kultuh village in Manipur's Kamjong district before dawn Thursday. They also burned a church and several houses. The violence is believed to be linked to rising tensions after six Naga hostages were found dead. Kuki Baptist Convention condemned the attacks. **P 11**

Bangalore Times

'I never chased relevance, I chased honesty'

'I wanted to pick up the gun and join the Naxalites'

Shots fired at Delhi gym reportedly linked to Randhawa, Bishnoi gang claim role

Have we been looking at Cannes all wrong?

For filmmaker L Suresh in more than a festival — it's where careers, collaborations, and the future of cinema are set in motion

GOAL RUSH
WORLD CUP 2026

SAMBA, TANGO & The B'luru Between

Gowthamapura Grooves In Brazil's Yellow, Murphy Town Bleeds Argentine Blue, Austin Town Swings In All Hues

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The statue doesn't move. But all of Gowthamapura does in this World Cup football season.

In the narrow bylanes of Gowthamapura, near Ulsoor, a five-foot Pele, frozen in yellow jersey and blue shorts, stands as both landmark and lightning rod. Once known as Gun Troops, a British military base during the colonial era, Gowthamapura has long since traded its martial identity for a footballing one. It's now called 'Mini Brazil'.

TIMES *Special*

With FIFA World Cup 2026 having kicked off early Friday, Gowthamapura and Bengaluru's other historic football hubs, Murphy Town and Austin Town, are gearing up. Somewhere in the background, Shakira and Burna Boy are already calling it: "Dai dai, ikou, dale, allez, let's go." In these neighbourhoods, they've been living that line for generations.

Pics: Syed Asif

O JOGO BONITO: Gowthamapura has a 5-ft Pele statue, frozen in yellow jersey and blue shorts, and replica of FIFA World Cup Trophy outside the football ground where kids train every day

The Pele statue is the beating heart of it all. Just steps away, a giant replica of FIFA World Cup Trophy stands outside Gowthamapura Football Ground, where youngsters train daily, dreaming of following in the footsteps of legends this neighbourhood has already produced.

Among them: P Kannan, nicknamed 'Asian Pele', and players like Kaushal Ram and Mohan Velu, who helped carve Gowthamapura's identity on the city's football map.

"We've a rich history of football here. We celebrate the World Cup supporting Brazil," says C Ravi Kumar, a former footballer and resident. "Once the tournament gains momentum, you can feel the excitement everywhere."

The statue will be repainted; a temporary football installation is planned nearby. If Brazil reaches the semifinals or finals, then the screens go up — midnight kickoff times be damned. "All the required permissions will be taken. And people turning up in good numbers is guaranteed," Kumar says.

Funding is a community affair. Residents from all walks of life donate voluntarily. Around 75% remain Brazil loyalists, but the younger generation, raised on Messi, Ronaldo and Mbappe, has widened its arc. The samba flag still flies highest. The bylanes, though, are getting more colourful.

A couple of kilometres away, the loyalties shift — visibly. Murphy Town runs on Argentine blue and white, and Messi's No. 10 jersey is practically a neighbourhood uniform.

The area has its own footballing pride to draw from. Figures like Goms Williams, among the ex-Indian players Murphy Town has sent into the national fold, are celebrated names here, their legacies woven into why the sport runs so deep.

"Murphy Town has produced quality football players who have played for India over the years. It's also because of their exploits that football has always been such a popular sport. They have helped build a strong football tradition here," says Muralidharan P, a former Karnataka player.

That tradition erupted in 2022, when Argentina lifted the World Cup in Qatar. Screenings of the semifinals and final drew packed crowds until the venue ran out of seating space. This year, organisers are planning to move match screenings to a nearby ground entirely — built for likely overflow.

Then there is Austin Town, which refuses to pick a side and is richer for it. Support here is spread across nations, and the debates at the Nandan Ground never really end. Except this year, there's an edge to the conversation that goes beyond which team will win.

The ground is under construction, and locals are jostling for space. "We have been told that turf will not be laid. At present, renovation is going on in the gallery section. Let us see what happens after the construction is completed," said former Karnataka player Nedunchezhian NT.

"However, the love for football is paramount in Austin Town, and the usual World Cup celebrations will not be hampered," he added.

And so they carry on. Rooftops and balconies will soon be draped in the flags of competing nations. Local rallies, 150-200 strong, led by current and former footballers, will wind through the streets in friendly rivalry.

"It's some friendly banter to show they have more supporters than others in the rallies ... It becomes festive," says FC Bengaluru United goalkeeper Srijith R, who grew up here. Such is the tournament's pull that even local teams playing during this period often drop their usual names, going instead by the nations they support.

On July 19, one nation will lift the trophy. The world will watch. But in Gowthamapura, Murphy Town and Austin Town, the result almost feels secondary. The World Cup here is not a sporting event. It's a festival, a reunion, a reason to repaint a statue and fill a street with music at midnight.

"Dai dai" — come on, come on. These neighbourhoods need no convincing!

Call to seek refund for coconut water bottle costs woman ₹95k

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Bengaluru: A routine online order for tender coconut bottles turned into a terrifying ordeal for an elderly woman as she lost nearly Rs 95,000 to cyber fraudsters, posing as customer care executives, while raising a complaint about a missing bottle.

#DontGetScammed
Gift TOI to your loved ones and protect them from scams.
Call 85 95 124 124

Nirmala, 71, (name changed), a homemaker, told police the fraud happened between 2.50pm and 3.30pm on June 8. Nirmala and her 73-year-old husband, a retired govt employee from Hanumanthnagar, have been residing in an ashram in Vidyamanyanagar, Andrahalli, for the past three to four months.

Since the ashram is on the outskirts and far from shops, Nirmala learned how to shop online with the help of relatives and friends.

On June 8 afternoon, she ordered two bottles of tender coconut water through quick-commerce platform Zepto.

AI

ONLINE ORDER GONE WRONG

However, only one bottle was delivered. "We have been allotted a room on the fourth floor in the ashram. When the delivery boy came to deliver the bottles, my husband went down to receive them. He returned with one bottle as he was not aware that I had ordered two by paying Rs 188 in total," the woman told **TOI**.

"A month ago, my order from the same platform was undelivered. I searched for the customer care number, and when I contacted them, the money was refunded within an hour. So, I thought this time too, I'd dialled the correct number," she added.

"I found the number 9288212823 and dialled it. The person who answered the call introduced himself as an employee of the firm and assured me that a refund would be processed," the complainant said.

He asked Nirmala to stay on the call and sent a link to her on WhatsApp, instructing her to click on it and enter details so that the refund amount could be credited to her account. "He asked me to open my digital payment application (PhonePe), enter UPI ID and then enter the first five digits of my mobile number in the 'enter amount' option. He then asked me to click on the pay button and enter the password," she said.

Soon, Rs 94,830 was debited from her bank account instead of a refund being credited. Realising that something was amiss, she disconnected the call. Soon after, she received another call from 7362994834. The caller again asked her to enter her password. She refused to comply.

Realising that she has been cheated, she approached a friend, who called cyber helpline 1930 and lodged a complaint. By the time officials initiated freezing of the fraudsters' account, only Rs 49,000 was left in her bank account.

Byadarahalli police have registered a case.

Woman borrows money to pay ₹60L to crooks, now chased by loan agents

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Bengaluru: A frightening phone call from a person claiming to be a police officer spiralled into a financial nightmare for a 32-year-old woman. She alleged that fraudsters manipulated her into taking multiple loans and she lost nearly Rs 60 lakh.

According to the complaint filed by a resident of Ganganagar in north Bengaluru, the fraudsters initiated the scam with a phone call through Telegram on Dec 17, 2025. The caller introduced himself as a police officer from Mumbai and claimed the woman's identity proof had been misused in illegal advertisements and harassment calls.

The fraudsters shared a random mobile phone number and a bank account number and claimed they were being used for illegal activities and had been sourced using her Aadhaar card. On the pretext of arresting her, the fraudsters asked her to cooperate with the virtual investigation.

They sent several links through Telegram and instructed her to click on them. After she opened the links, her mobile phone was hacked and personal information and data stored on the phone were accessed by them, she told police.

Multiple persons spoke to her over phone and threatened to expose her personal details and implicate her in criminal activities unless she paid money. The worried woman said she would pay but needed to take loan. The fraudsters then directed her to download quick-loan applications by sending her multiple links and forced her to take loans to pay them.

As the debt mounted, the victim allegedly began taking fresh loans to repay earlier ones. According to her, she paid Rs 60 lakh between Dec 17, 2025, and Jan 20 this year to multiple bank accounts provided by the fraudsters. The woman told police she still has an outstanding debt of around Rs 15 lakh.

Adding to her ordeal, recovery agents linked to the loan apps continue to call her and send messages to her relatives, friends and colleagues, besides visiting her house to pressure her for repayment.

Garbage tender row triggers fresh DKS-Ashoka slugfest

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The war of words between chief minister DK Shivakumar and opposition leader in the assembly R Ashoka escalated Thursday over alleged irregularities in Bengaluru's Rs 39,437-crore waste management tender.

Rejecting Ashoka's allegations of corruption in the tender process, Shivakumar accused the senior BJP MLA of acting as a spokesperson for the city's waste management mafia. "Ashoka is speaking as an agent of Bengaluru's waste mafia. I had earlier discussed with him the need to rein in this lobby. It is surprising that he is now acting as its spokesperson," Shivakumar said.

The CM maintained that the tender process is transparent and challenged the opposition to seek any investigation it wanted.

"Even if there is a misuse of Rs 10 crore, I am ready to face an inquiry," he said.

File photo

WASTE MISMANAGEMENT

Ashoka responded sharply, saying he is indeed an "agent", but only of the people of Karnataka and Bengaluru. "It is my constitutional duty to question govt's actions. I do not need anyone's permission to do so," he said in a post on X.

The opposition leader challenged the govt to make public the report of a high-level committee set up to examine the tender process. "If the govt is truly transparent, it should release the report immediately instead of hiding it. Let the people of the state decide the truth," he said.

To kill ex-serviceman, hospital lab staff fed him pesticide through saline: Police probe

▶ Continued from page 1

Her boyfriend was her husband's business partner in a hotel. When the business failed, Pundalik stayed on with the family as a driver.

Sandeep, from Ghodageri village in Hukkeri taluk, sustained minor injuries in a bike accident near Ghataprabha town in Gokak taluk on March 13. As he recovered steadily in hospital, his wife and her lover are said to have hatched a conspiracy to eliminate him, fearing his recovery would jeopardise their relationship.

Despite minor injuries, the ex-serviceman died on March 15.

The accused allegedly attempted to portray the death as a consequence of the accident. Police suspected the involvement of hospital laboratory staff, who allegedly helped the main accused administer pesticide through the saline in the hospital, resulting in his death.

A breakthrough in the case came after evidence of the woman's extramarital relationship surfaced. Sustained interrogation of the suspects exposed the alleged murder conspiracy. Following court permission, police Thursday exhumed the body of the deceased for forensic examination.

Missing mother shifted safehouse twice in a week in Sakleshpur, went off radar

▶ Continued from page 1

According to police, Priyanka initially stayed at a secluded commercial resort on the outskirts of Sakleshpur for two to three days before shifting to the farmhouse owned by a common friend, Chiru.

Priyanka had been absconding since June 4 after her estranged husband, Praveen, filed a criminal complaint against her and her live-in partner, Mohan MG, at Kadugodi police station. Mohan was arrested shortly after the case was registered.

The case relates to the death of Vennela, the couple's younger daughter, who was brought dead to a hospital in Kadugodi on March 24. Priyanka initially told authorities she had fed the child biryani and ice cream before putting her to sleep inside her MUV with the windows rolled up, suggesting that the child may have suffocated to death.

However, during interrogation, Mohan allegedly confessed to hitting the child in the stomach with his elbow when she spilled ice cream inside the vehicle and then clamped her mouth shut to muffle her cries.

Investigators said Priyanka attempted to evade arrest through a complete digital blackout. She switched off her mobile phone and avoided using credit or debit cards to prevent investigators from tracking her digital footprint.

But police maintained close surveillance on several suspected hideouts based on leads and clues they got from Mohan during questioning.

Thief uses PG room key, steals inmate's laptop and valuables

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A security lapse at a paying guest accommodation proved costly for an inmate after a thief used a room key left on a common dashboard to steal a laptop, cash and other valuables from a room in Ashwathnagar, Marathahalli, on June 8.

According to the complaint filed by Bantuboina Naveen, 30, who stays in room no. 301 at New Nandi PG for Gents, he locked his room at 6.30pm and stepped out with roommates for tea.

As per the usual practice followed by gents PG inmates, the room key was kept on a dashboard located on the ground floor.

The intruder entered the PG premises, picked up the key from the dashboard and gained access to the room. He stole the laptop, charger, headphones, a PAN card, credit cards and Rs 2,000 in cash before fleeing the scene.

The theft came to light when Naveen returned and found his belongings missing. A review of CCTV footage showed an unidentified man taking the key from the dashboard and entering his room.

A case was registered under Section 305 of BNS (theft in a dwelling house, means of transportation, or place of worship, etc.) at HAL police station, and efforts are on to nab the miscreant.

The PG in-charge was not present near the gate, so the thief could easily enter the building and take the keys, a police officer said.

GBDA to carry out land acquisition; 367 acres earmarked for first phase

▶ Continued from page 1

The project was planned across 7,481 acres covering nine villages. But, the final notification issued Thursday — likely the first in a series of acquisition notifications — pertains to 499 acres in Kempayyanapalya and Mandalahalli villages of Bidadi hobli and Vaderahalli village of Harohalli hobli.

Among the notified villages, Kempayyanapalya will bear the brunt of the first phase of acquisition, with 367 acres marked for takeover. Mandalahalli accounts for 70 acres, while another 61 acres will be acquired in Vaderahalli.

The notification comes barely a month after the cabinet accorded final approval to the project, clearing the way for land acquisition proceedings despite persistent objections from farmers and landowners.

After securing formal approval in Feb 2025, Greater Bengaluru Development Authority issued a preliminary notification in March 2025 proposing acquisition of land. According to the final notification, all objections were examined before the govt decided to proceed with the acquisition.

Govt has empowered the commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Development Authority and special land acquisition officer-II, GBDA, Ramanagara, to carry out the acquisition process.

The notification states that in cases where discrepancies arise between Akar Bandh records and pahani entries, the extent recorded in Akar Bandh will be treated as final. It clarifies that ownership in govt survey numbers where land grants have not been fully regularised will be determined in accordance with a 2012 govt circular.

What farmers need to claim compensation

- Certified copy of sale deed, partition deed, gift deed, will deed or related document
- Family tree certificate
- Receipt showing full land revenue payment
- Copy of Aadhaar/voter ID/PAN card, and two passport-size photographs
- Indemnity bond on ₹500 bond paper and affidavit on ₹100 bond paper along with consent certificate from family members
- Photocopy of bank passbook

Cops save man trying to end life on rail track

Bengaluru: A dramatic late-night rescue operation unfolded near Huskur railway station Wednesday when Hebbagodi police saved a 30-year-old man from Kerala who was attempting to end his life by lying on a railway track.

The railway staff noticed the man lying on the tracks at Chintala Madiwala and alerted emergency helpline 112 around 11.30pm. The Hoysala patrol team attached to Hebbagodi police station rushed to the spot. The team found the man lying on the track nearly 200 metres from Huskur station. As police tried to persuade him, the man began throwing stones at them.

After nearly 15-20 minutes of high drama, police brought a rope, tied his hands and managed to pull him away from the track.

During inquiry, the man identified himself as Ajay, 30, a native of Kozhikode. Police were told he is mentally disturbed. They arranged for an ambulance and shifted him to Nimhans for treatment and counselling. TNN

Dad wins ₹25k after edtech firm fails to deliver books; daughter cracks NEET

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Bengaluru: Preparing for NEET — one of India's toughest competitive exams — was challenging enough for Bhargavi, but it became even harder when an edtech giant allegedly collected Rs 1.2 lakh for an all-online programme but failed to deliver the promised class 12 textbooks, triggering a legal battle.

The saga began when 53-year-old Varun Kumar, a resident of Lottegollahalli in north Bengaluru, was contacted on May 3, 2023, by a representative of an edtech firm who introduced him to the institute's JEE and NEET coaching programmes.

Kumar then enrolled his daughter in its coaching programme. He paid Rs 15,000 in cash on May 6 and took a Bajaj Finance loan of Rs 1.1 lakh on May 8. As part of the package, Byju's was obligated to provide textbooks for both classes 11 and 12, a uniform and a bag.

The class 11 books were

eventually delivered, but the class 12 textbooks, uniform and bag never arrived. When Kumar approached the institute, the representative assured him the books would be delivered to his home address. Instead, what arrived was a set of class 11 books again which Kumar returned to the institute. Even after that, the firm made no effort to send the correct set of books.

With exams nearing, Kumar repeatedly called and emailed the institute but received no response. A police officer later contacted Byju's, after which an employee, Spoorthy, asked Kumar to visit the firm's Bannerghatta Road branch. There, the staff denied supplying the books and refused to provide textbooks, uniform or bag. Kumar then sent a detailed complaint and legal notice, both ignored by Byju's. Kumar filed a consumer complaint on April 15, 2024, for service deficiency.

In its defence, Byju's — registered as Think and Learn Private Ltd and known publicly as Byju's The Learning App — contended that it was not a necessary party to the case, that the course was activated and all necessary study materials and accessories were provided on activation, and that Kumar had not placed a request for cancellation as per its policy.

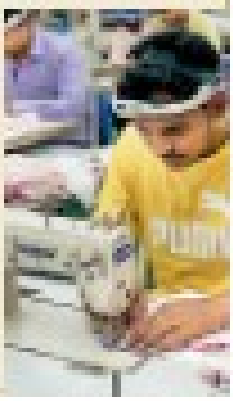
The firm argued it undertook due diligence to address the complainant's grievances, that it acted in a bona fide manner throughout and had no mala fide intention to cause any damage. It alleged that the student had already utilised the course and described the complaint as frivolous, praying for its dismissal.

After hearing both sides, the commission observed from call recordings that Byju's repeatedly gave false assurances about providing class 12 textbooks but failed to deliver them.

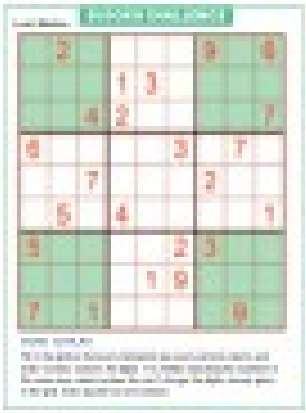
It noted that Byju's produced no evidence to prove the books were supplied and did not file an affidavit contesting the complaint. A memo submitted by Kumar stated that Bhargavi has since cleared NEET and JEE and is pursuing MBBS, succeeding despite the company's failure.

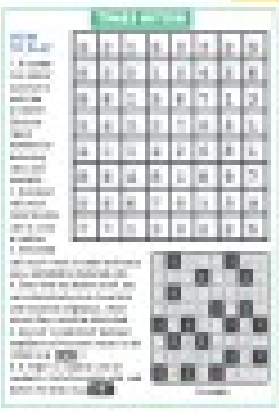
While the commission found no significant academic loss, it held that the harassment and distress suffered were undeniable. As the cost of the undelivered textbooks was not specified and Bhargavi had already completed her exams, the bench, comprising president Vijaykumar M Pawale and member V Anuradha, on May 22 awarded compensation of Rs 25,000 to Kumar.

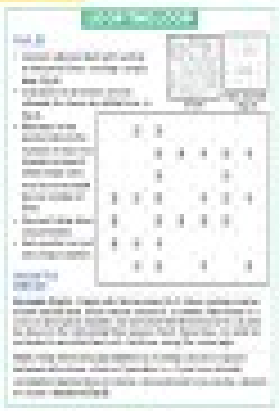
The unsettling sight of AI in Bengaluru's local markets

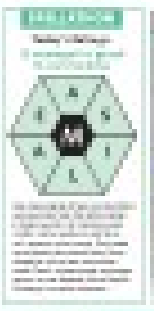


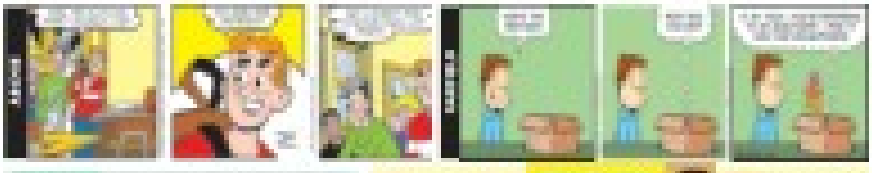
LEISURE

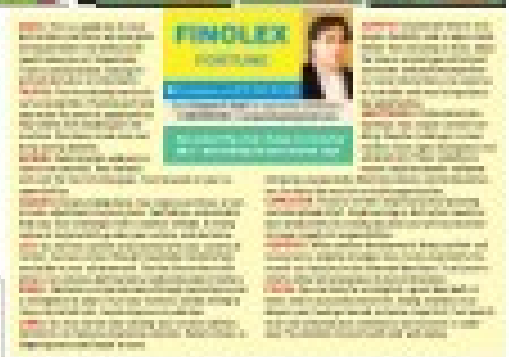


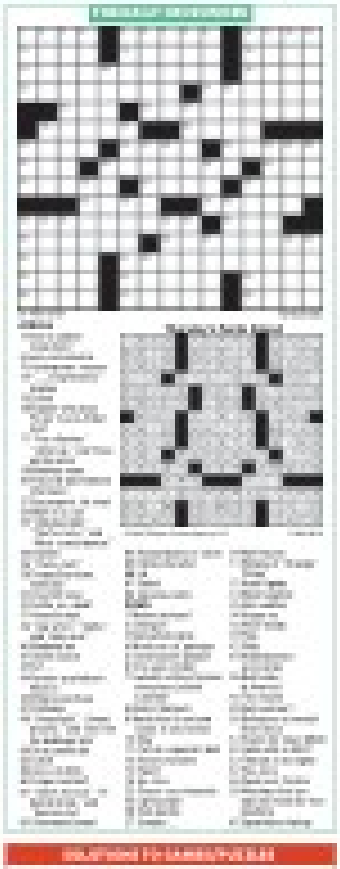












Boys' grouse: Girls can travel anywhere. Why can't we?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: "Why should only girls have all the free rides?" Disappointment writ large on their faces, several boys are asking this question. They are yet to come to terms with Karnataka govt's announcement — made more than a week ago — that male students, too, can enjoy free bus rides to schools and colleges. From primary school to postgraduation.

The announcement comes with a big caveat, though: Free travel for boys will be restricted to the route between their homes and educational institutions. This mirrors the existing student bus pass system, but without a fee. On the other hand, girls enjoy free rides across Karnataka without opening their purse strings. Unlimited travel, unlimited routes.

Soon after taking over as chief minister, DK Shivakumar announced free bus travel for boys. This was met with much celebration as it promised significant savings on daily commute cost. But the excitement was short-lived. Boys won't be able to hop onto any state-run bus and travel wherever they want.

"We are happy that our female friends have no restrictions on routes or trips they undertake. Now that the govt has extended free bus pass for us, we would be grateful if they allow us to travel like the girls do," said Rahul Raj, a II PU student. He travels daily between Chandra Layout and Jayanagar 4th Block.

The scheme is expected to benefit more than 10 lakh students across Karnataka and over 2 lakh students in Bengaluru alone. "It's actually a very good initiative. I'm able to save up to Rs 80 a day," said Ishan Kumar Sah, 16. But students say the restrictions reduce the scheme's usefulness. Suveera Kustagi, a first-year degree student from Yelahanka, concurred with Ishan: "The only benefit is that I will save about Rs 1,050 a year."

Several students view the differential approach to free bus rides as "unequal treatment". Boys said students often travel beyond their approved routes for tuition, coaching centres, libraries, sports practice or part-time work. However, there is a section that fears boys could misuse unlimited travel if it is rolled out. Said Rupesh Kumar Chaudhary, a student: "It is better that they've given the facility only till educational institutions."

A BMTC official said they have already opened its portal for receiving applications. Boys who have paid the fee for student passes will get reimbursement.

—TN Laasya

File photo

LIMITED SCOPE: Free travel for boys will be restricted between their homes and educational institutions under DKS govt's new scheme

> The only disadvantage is I won't be able to travel everywhere. But I'm still okay with it
> — Vishal Gowda, 16

> It would have been great if all students got a free service. t will be highly beneficial if students are allowed to travel free within the city
> — Manoj GL, 20

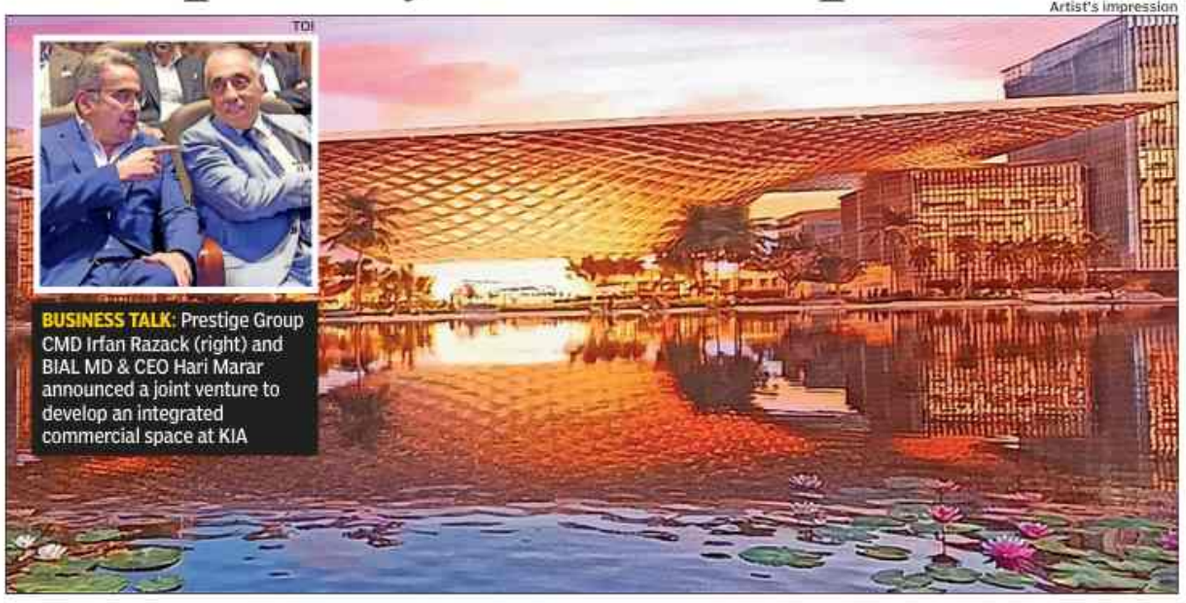
Refund for those who have already paid

Transport minister Byrathi Suresh Thursday announced that students who have already purchased student bus passes will be eligible for a refund. The free bus travel scheme for boys studying from primary school to postgraduate level was announced after DK Shivakumar assumed charge as CM. The minister said guidelines for implementing the free bus pass scheme have been prepared and will be released shortly.

₹1,800-crore convention centre, hospitality to come up at KIA

Artist's impression

TOI



BUSINESS TALK: Prestige Group CMD Irfan Razack (right) and BIAL MD & CEO Hari Marar announced a joint venture to develop an integrated commercial space at KIA

Anush.S@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: As part of the Airport City project, Bengaluru Airport City Ltd (BACL) will build an integrated commercial space on Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) premises. The space will be handed over to Prestige Group, which will invest around Rs 1,800 crore for its development.

The 6.2 lakh-square-foot space will include a convention centre that can accommodate 8,000 people at a time. Designed as a business, hospitality and cultural hub by UK firm Kohn Pedersen Fox, the development will include two luxury hotels and a premium office space as well. With work set to begin in early 2027, the project, once completed in 2031, is expected to host international conferences, exhibitions, corporate events and cultural gatherings.

The site lies close to Yethiganahalli lake, around 5km from the trumpet interchange that connects the airport to Bengaluru city. It will also be close to the Airport City Metro station, which will be part of the Blue Line connecting Silk Board.

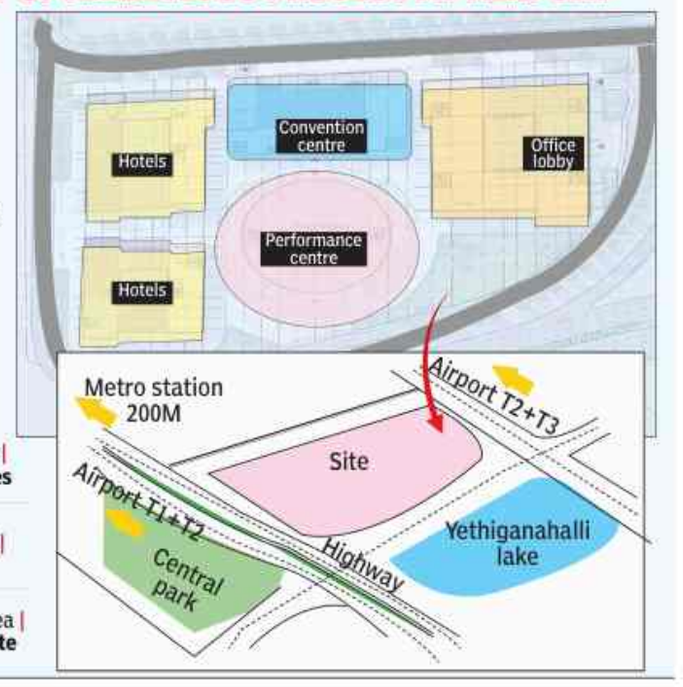
With around 1,200 rooms in the airport area at present, BACL believes that this project will increase the capacity by 300-500 rooms. "This is just the beginning of the explosion of real estate and economic development in the northern part of the city. In the long run, we see demand for both office spaces and hospitality going up exponentially," explained Hari Marar, managing director, Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL).

He added that apart from 15-18 million square feet of office space within the airport campus, there is a huge potential for 4,500-5,200 hotel rooms. Of 450 acres under the Airport City project, 110 acres are already developed or are under development. About 70 acres of this space have been taken over by Air India and IndiGo for maintenance, repair and operations (MRO). "Between these two MROs, they have the capability of handling 20 and servicing 29 aircraft simultaneously, which makes it probably the largest MRO hub in Asia," Marar said.

A cloud kitchen being operated by SATS within the Airport City produces 1.4 lakh meals a day. Officials added that a 775-room hotel will open in Dec this year, along with a 20 lakh-square-foot office space later this year. A concert arena will open by June next year, with a medical district set to be ready in the next three years.

BLUEPRINT OF AMBITIOUS PROJECT AT AIRPORT

The 6.2 lakh-square-foot space will include a convention centre that can accommodate 8,000 people at a time. Designed as a business, hospitality and cultural hub by UK firm Kohn Pedersen Fox, the development will include two luxury hotels and a premium office space as well



Plot size | 14.2 Acres

FAR max | 2.5

Green area | 10% of Site

Lawyer: Girl's mom refused to attend court

▶ Continued from page 1

Following the demise of the convict's mother in Bihar on June 12, the family travelled to their hometown for the rituals. During the visit, the father promised her he would no longer coerce her into marriage. He returned to Bengaluru and then she joined him.

On the night of June 27, 2023, in a highly intoxicated state, the accused claimed he wanted to "test" her character, saying he suspected her of having an affair in UP. On the pretext of conducting this "test", he raped her. Later in the night, when the father stepped out of the house to fetch dinner, she fled the premises and spent the night hiding in a nearby park. The following morning, she spotted an autorickshaw parked nearby. She pleaded with the driver to take her to the nearest police station, where she filed a complaint.

Cops initiated an investigation, arrested the accused and shifted the survivor to a state-run women's shelter home for protection. When police contacted her mother and requested her immediate presence in Bengaluru, the mother chose to castigate the minor instead. "The survivor fought this battle entirely alone," public prosecutor P Krishnaveni told **TOI**. "Despite serving several notices and making multiple requests, her mother refused to attend the court proceedings or support her child," she said.

The prosecution commended the girl's mental fortitude. "She stood like a rock, never wavering from her initial statements despite the immense emotional trauma and zero family backing," Krishnaveni added. The 19-yr-old is now working as a tailor.

Motor Vehicles Act won't apply to tree-fall incidents, rules SC

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Supreme Court Thursday ruled that incidents caused by trees falling on vehicles are "not accidents involving motor vehicles" and no claim could be filed before Motor Accident Claims Tribunals (MACTs).

BENGALURU CASE

The case arose from an incident in Bengaluru on June 23, 2007. A branch of a tree under which an autorickshaw was parked in heavy rain fell on the vehicle, leaving the passenger injured grievously.

MACT rejected his claim for a Rs 50-lakh compensation. Karnataka high court awarded Rs 17.5 lakh — 25% of which to be paid by BBMP (now GBA), 50% by insurer and 25% by the horticulture department.

"A person who has suffered such life-altering grievous injuries, being left in lurch, without any money to sustain himself, does not appeal to the conscience of justice," the top court said and enhanced the compensation to Rs 25 lakh, which would be distributed among the authorities in the same proportion as was ordered by HC.

The SC judgment could have a bearing on cases relating to injuries caused by trees falling on vehicles that occur after a storm or during the rainy season.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and NK Singh said the two ingredients — 'caused by' and 'arising out of' the use of motor vehicle — in the accident must be present for an injured person to claim compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act.

When a tree falls on a vehicle sheltered under it, then the accident is not caused by or arising out of use of the vehicle, it said.

On appeal by the civic body, the SC said municipal corporations have a duty to ensure trees in its jurisdiction are kept healthy with periodic maintenance, but agreed that to fasten liability on civic bodies for such incidents would be unrealistic.

Writing for the court, Justice Karol said, "We are not even, for a moment, trivializing the injuries of the respondent or affording any escape to the appellant from its duty of maintaining trees in the city. All that we are saying is that in the facts and circumstances of this case, neither was taking shelter under the tree anything out of the ordinary nor was the unfortunate falling of a branch within contemplation of any authority or even the driver of the autorickshaw.

"Under these circumstances, it would be unfair to fasten the liability upon the appellant (civic body) under the MVA," it said.

However, the SC bench said it can't be aloof to the pain and sufferings of the injured and it would not be in the interest of justice to relegate the man to civil courts to claim compensation to further delay the compensation reaching the person who survived the accident.

Photo for representation

Considering the victim's grievous injuries, the top court enhanced the Rs 17-lakh payout, awarded by HC, to Rs 25 lakh to be paid by GBA, vehicle insurer and the department of horticulture

National mobility cards 'out of service' in Metro

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Following a backend server failure, use of National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC) has been disrupted in Metro stations.

BMRCL said that an "unforeseen technical issue" has made the top-up and recharge facility for these cards temporarily unavailable. "Efforts are being made on priority to restore the service at the earliest... Passengers using NCMC cards are advised to plan their travel accordingly. In case they are unable to recharge or use their NCMC cards, they can go ahead and purchase QR tickets or tokens for their journeys to avoid inconvenience," BMRCL said.

New circular bus service in Jigani from June 15

BMTC will introduce a new non-AC circular bus service, Chakra-3, from June 15 to improve connectivity in Jigani-Anekal region. The route will operate from Jigani APC Circle and return to the same location via Haragadde, Indluvadi Cross, Anekal, Karpur Gate and Rupesh Hotel.

Byappanahalli-Hosur rail doubling: 30% commissioned, cost escalates by ₹190 cr

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Bengaluru: The railway board had sanctioned the doubling of tracks between Byappanahalli and Hosur in 2018-19. But almost eight years down the line, the project is yet to be completed and has already incurred Rs 190 crore more than what was originally planned.

The 48km-long project was handed over to Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-Ride), implementing agency of the suburban rail project, in 2020. Since then, the project has struggled to pick up, with only 14km (30%) commissioned so far.

Initially, the railways had sanctioned the project with an estimated cost of Rs 498.7 crore. It also involved the revamping of four railway stations along the route. As of April 30, K-Ride spent Rs 688.8 crore. While the costs have significantly escalated from the original plan, considerable work still remains in the project.

According to K-Ride, the cost has increased as several initial plans were altered keeping long-term benefits in mind. "Initially, there was only one loop line. Then we thought of providing more loop lines and facilities at every station. We thought of providing better amenities in the new stations rather than renovating them later on, which might cost much more," K-Ride managing director Lakshman Singh told **TOI**.

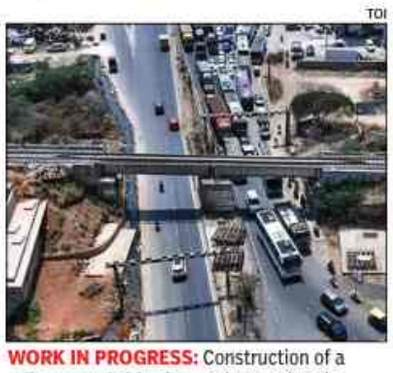
He also pointed out that the newly commissioned stations, part of the project, have got better facilities than what were initially mooted. While all four stations, including Bellandur Road and Huskur, have been commissioned, two major bridges, a rail overbridge, two minor bridges and an 18km track lining are still to be completed.

As much as 9.7km of track between Byappanahalli and Bellandur Road, along with 24.5km between Heelalige and Hosur are incomplete. With the Heelalige-Hosur section set to be completed by the end of the year, officials say the full commissioning might have to wait till early 2027, with Feb likely to be the deadline. According to South Western Railway (SWR), the commissioning will happen in three phases.

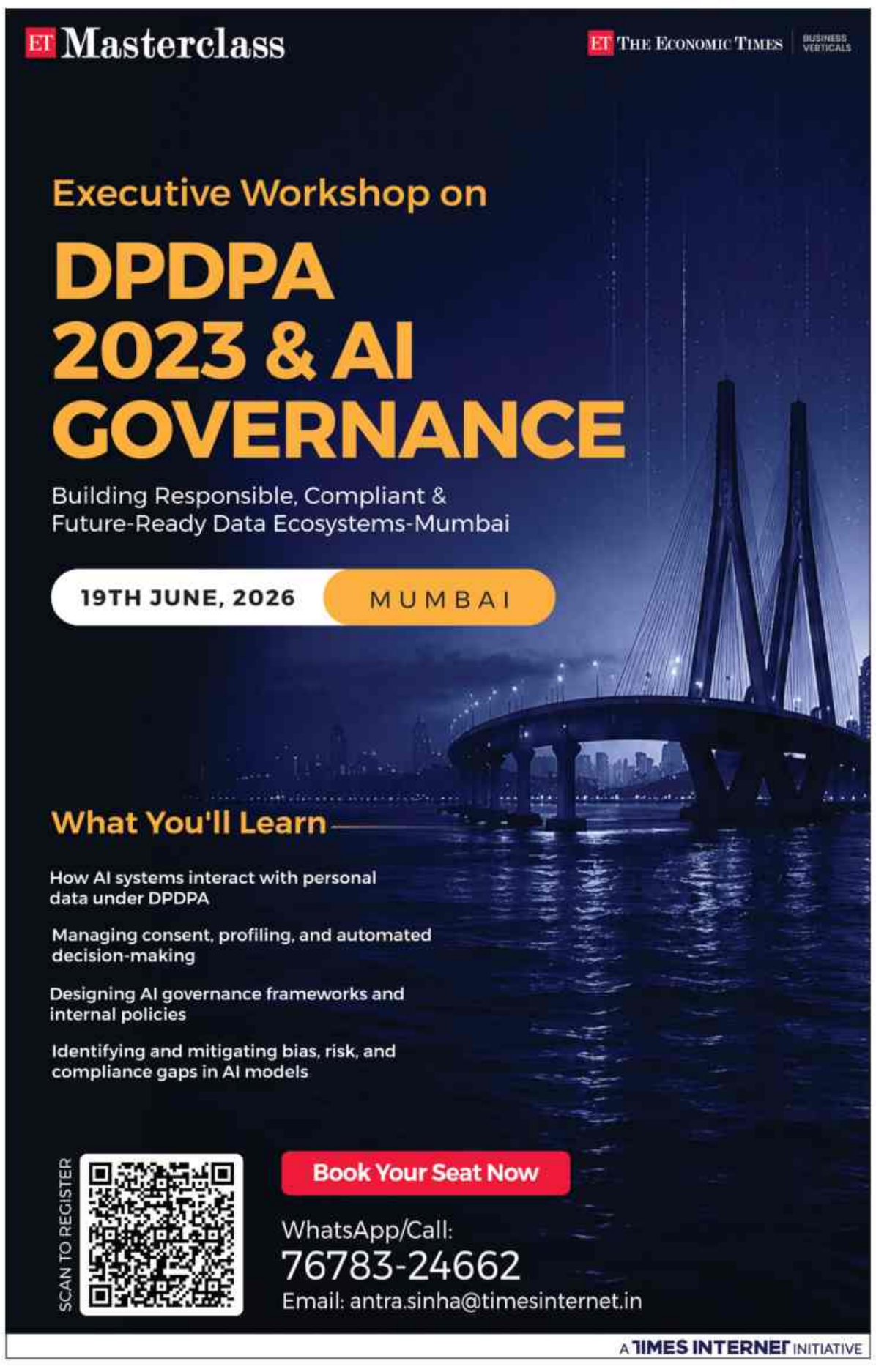
Despite it not being included in the initial project plan, K-Ride is constructing a rail over-bridge at Chandapura with a six-lane national highway running under it. Officials revealed that the bridge is being built without any additional financial support.

Justifying the increased spending, Singh said the project is executed with a long-term plan. "Whatever assets are getting created will last for hundreds of years", he clarified.

TOI

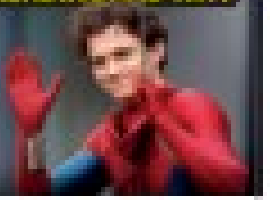


WORK IN PROGRESS: Construction of a railway overbridge is ongoing at Chandapura

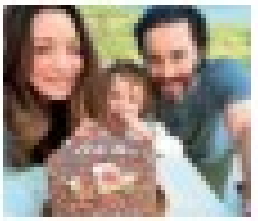


UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Spider-Man: Brand New Day to release early in India; ticket sales open next week

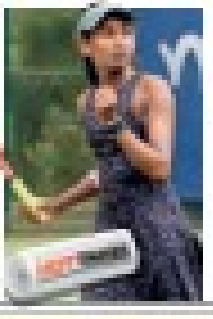


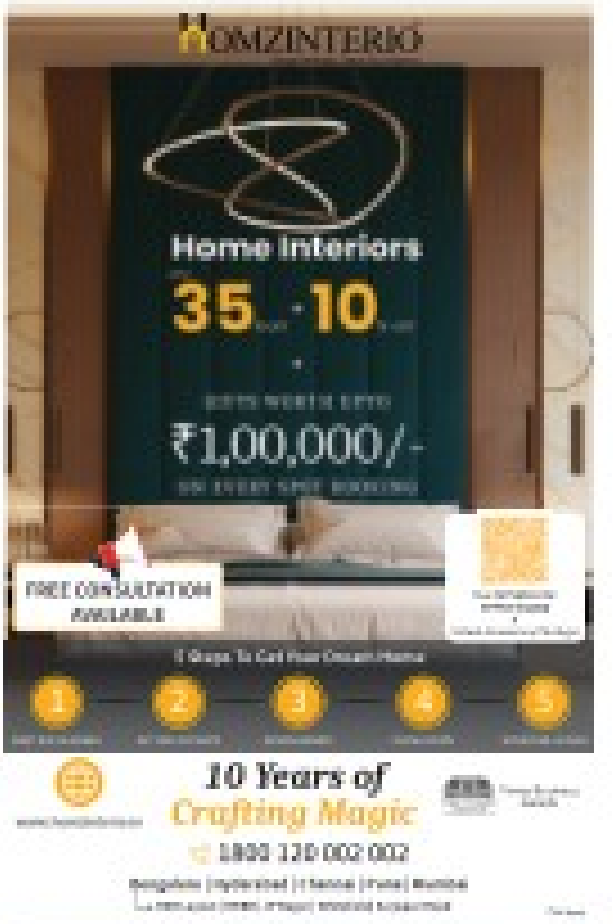
Hailey Cuoco announces second pregnancy with Tom Pelphrey

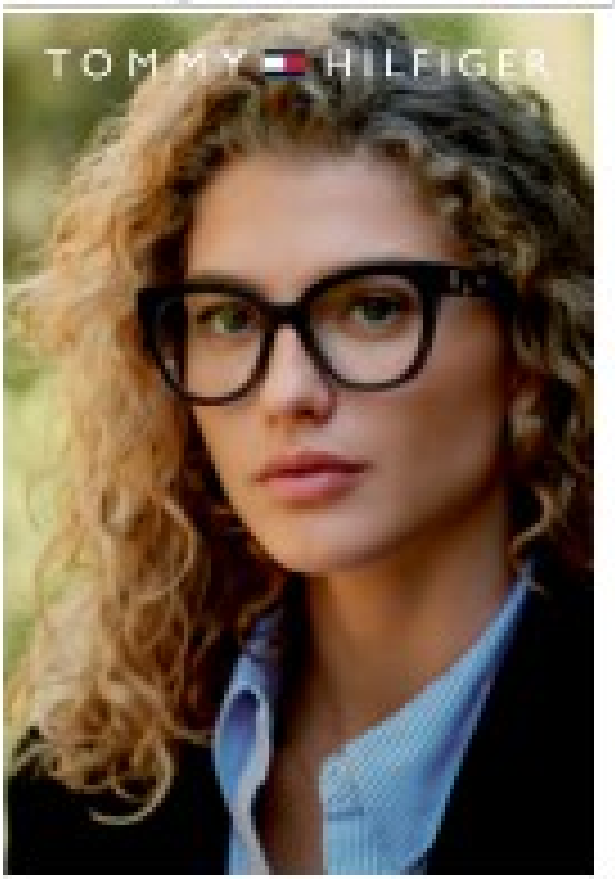


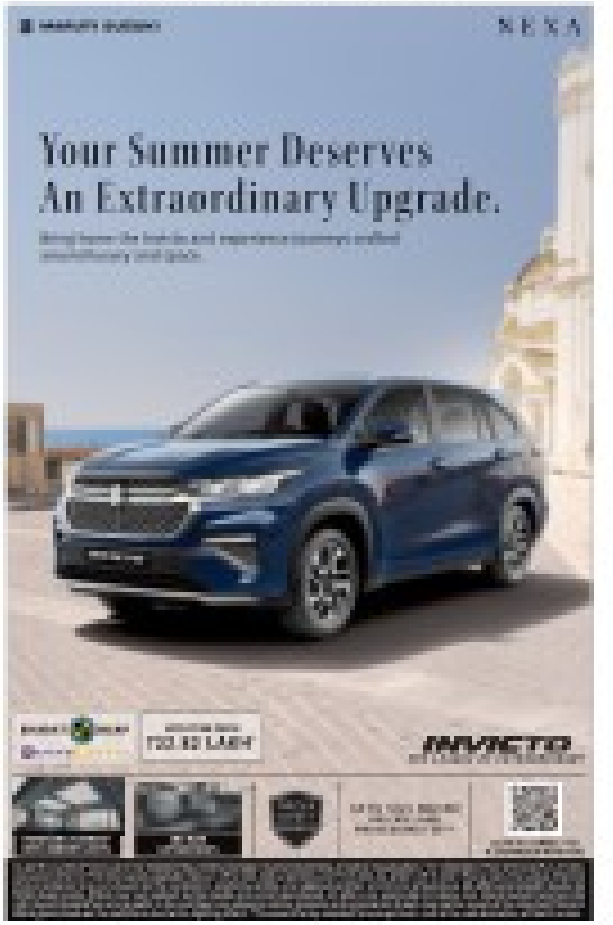
Eight-time nominee Chloe Zhao, Ridley Scott to receive honorary Oscar

Bengaluru's Srishti Kiran is World No. 1 in under-13 tennis rankings









Gruha Jyothi: Tenants may have to submit affidavit to enjoy benefit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/Delhi: Beneficiaries of the govt's Gruha Jyothi scheme residing in rented houses may soon have to submit an affidavit to prove they are not claiming the subsidy illegally or for more than one household.

Announcing the move in Delhi Wednesday, chief minister DK Shivakumar said the govt was tightening checks after receiving complaints of misuse. He insisted the exercise was not intended to reduce the number of beneficiaries but to weed out ineligible claims.

Gruha Jyothi, one of the govt's guarantee schemes, provides up to 200 units of free electricity a month for domestic consumers. The proposed requirement of an affidavit is aimed at ensuring that the benefit reaches genuine households and is not claimed multiple times by the same person.

"We will soon implement this check," he said. "Some people are using the scheme for their shops and business establishments. We found one person had six meters registered in his name. There is no objection if this scheme is used for residential homes."

The govt is also scrutinising suspected fraudulent claims linked to deceased beneficiaries. "They have provided someone else's phone number. We are reviewing this too," Shivakumar said.

Shivakumar was in Delhi for the NITI Aayog meet. He met top Congress functionaries including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday and held discussions with Karnataka officials posted in Delhi on ways to tap central schemes more effectively and secure higher funding for the state.

IANS

VICTORY LAP: Pawan Khera and Mansoor Ali Khan of Congress celebrate after being declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha. The two collected their certificates at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday

Centre objects to double-decker project

Chief minister DK Shivakumar Wednesday said he met Union urban development minister Manohar Lal Khattar and urged him to approve Bengaluru Metro's double-decker project. He said he had also asked him to provide higher central assistance for urban infrastructure projects in Karnataka. Shivakumar said Khattar had raised concerns over the double-decker project, prompting the state to present its case. "I explained the matter to him and requested approval for the project. I also requested a higher allocation of the Centre's urban challenge fund," he said.

Biometric verification for Gruha Lakshmi scheme

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The govt will introduce Aadhaar-based biometric verification for beneficiaries of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme from July, a move aimed at plugging alleged misuse of the monthly cash transfer.

The govt had recently admitted that about Rs 100 crore linked to the scheme had been misused. Officials said a mobile app is being developed to streamline registration and verification.

Gruha Lakshmi is one of the five guarantee schemes and provides financial assistance to women heads of families. The govt had allocated Rs 28,608 crore for the scheme in the 2026-27 budget.

Under the new system, women receiving the Rs 2,000 monthly assistance must complete biometric authentication to continue getting the benefit. Failure to complete verification could lead to non-credit of the amount. Beneficiaries will be charged Rs 5 for biometric registration.

The department of women and child development also plans to enrol members in a 'Gruha Lakshmi society'. Those opting must pay a joining fee of Rs 1,250.

In an earlier clean-up exercise, 4.3 lakh names were removed after it was found that several of them were either deceased or ineligible due to high income levels. "Only the woman head of the family will receive the amount," the official said. "If the person is dead, another female member of the family can continue to get the money if they provide the death certificate."

Finding excuses: BJP

Opposition leader R Ashoka criticised the move, saying in a post on X, "In 17 districts, more than 1.1 lakh women are being excluded from the scheme. Before elections, there was 'no conditions apply' and now they are finding excuses."

Will anti-graft measures continue after reshuffle?

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Bengaluru: The transfer of the revenue department portfolio from Krishna Byre Gowda to deputy CM G Parameshwara has triggered a key question for lakhs of citizens who deal with land, registration and revenue offices every day: Will reforms introduced over the past three years continue?

The revenue department has for long been associated with lobbying, corruption and political pressure and Byre Gowda, who has now been allotted the Bengaluru development portfolio, had introduced a series of measures to overhaul the system.

REVENUE DEPT

One of the most significant reforms was the counselling-based transfer system in the stamps and registration department. Introduced on a pilot basis in 2024 and later institutionalised, the system now requires officials to choose postings through a transparent digital process rather than through recommendations and political influence.

Under the proposed policy, sub-registrars who spent five of the previous eight years in lucrative urban postings, especially Bengaluru, face compulsory transfers. Similar norms apply to first division assistants and stenographers. Despite resistance from employees, who cited hardships related to family and children's education, the govt projected the move as a major anti-corruption measure.

The future of the reform is already under scrutiny. Karnataka State Stamps and Registration Department Officials' Association has sought amendments to the draft Karnataka Civil Services (Counselling Based Transfers in Stamps and Registration Department) Rules, 2026. In a representation to the department, the association sought exemptions for recognised association office-bearers and officials nearing retirement.

While supporting the move, the association said some provisions could create confusion and legal disputes. "The draft rules must be modified in the interests of justice, administrative fairness, cadre protection and smooth functioning of the department," said BH Shankare Gowda, association president.

Byre Gowda's tenure also saw an aggressive push towards digitisation. The department undertook large-scale scanning of historical records, expanded online services and sought to reduce citizens' dependence on middlemen. Crores of pages of revenue records were digitised with the objective of making them tamper-proof and easily accessible.

Officials say the pace of some initiatives appeared to slow in recent months after BJP alleged the minister had illegally grabbed more than 21 acres of land in Kolar district, including parcels allegedly classified as a lake and graveyard.

Byre Gowda strongly denied the claims, insisting the property was legally inherited from his grandfather and publicly challenged BJP to seek an independent inquiry. His supporters said the allegations were orchestrated by disgruntled sub-registrars upset with his reforms.

> I have done my best to ensure greater transparency in the revenue department. While much has been achieved, there is still a lot to be done. I am hopeful that the deputy CM will carry forward these initiatives and complete reforms that have been set in motion
> **Krishna Byre Gowda** | MINISTER

Big challenge

Transparency activist N Somashekar said technology can improve transparency only if successive administrations remain committed to reforms. "Byre Gowda's digital reforms have made several services easier, but many officials cite technical glitches, server failures and digital delays to extract money from applicants," he said.

Farmer leader C Mallesh noted that the revenue department remains one of the state's most influential departments because it handles land records, mutations, conversions, and registrations, but it is also seen as the most corrupt.

"Any weakening of transparent transfer policies or digital safeguards will immediately come under public scrutiny," Mallesh said. "Parameshwara's challenge is to reassure citizens that reforms aimed at curbing corruption and improving service delivery will continue. People want continuity in governance, irrespective of who heads the department."

IANS

FUND FLOW: DK Shivakumar and Krishna Byre Gowda with Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Thursday

MB Patil seeks Udan support

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Industries and infrastructure development minister MB Patil has urged the Centre to revive the Bengaluru–Shivamogga air route by bringing it under the upcoming Udan bidding cycle and ensuring viability gap funding.

In a letter to Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu, Patil said the resumption of flights is key to improving connectivity and supporting economic activity across the Malnad region and central Karnataka.

SHIVAMOGGA FLIGHT

Shivamogga airport began operations in Feb 2023, and IndiGo airlines had operated flights to Bengaluru. The service has been suspended in recent months due to financial losses, leaving passengers dependent on longer road travel.

Patil said restoring the air link would not only benefit Shivamogga, but also Chitradurga, Chikkamagaluru, Karwar, Davanagere, and Haveri districts, supporting agriculture, tourism and industrial growth. He said the absence of direct connectivity affected passengers travelling to other parts of the country and abroad via Bengaluru. He said while core infrastructure at the airport is already in place, work on night-landing facilities is currently in progress.

Kumara Krupa to be CM's residence

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

NEW HOME: Renovation work at Kumara Krupa is currently under way and DK Shivakumar is expected to move in by Aug

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The historic Kumara Krupa bungalow, home to Mysuru dewan K Seshadri Iyer nearly 140 years ago, is set to become chief minister DK Shivakumar's official residence-cum-office. Renovation work is currently underway and Shivakumar is expected to move in by Aug.

Iyer served as dewan from 1883 to 1901, and left a strong imprint on Bengaluru's infrastructure. The bungalow, named after Lord Kumaraswamy, came under govt control in 1918 and has since functioned as a guesthouse and official quarters.

Officials say a block of 39 rooms was added in 1970 to the original 12 rooms. It is now being strengthened and converted into a combined office and residence. Department of personnel and administrative reforms is overseeing the work.

Narendra Kumar, executive engineer, said the renovation won't change the heritage structure. "There are no vastu-related changes nor major alterations," he said. "An additional room may be added to serve as the CM's office." But Bellur Dwarakanath, Shivakumar's astrologer, said: "Once the Vastu is completed, we will see about astrological considerations."

Current occupants, including deputy speaker Rudrappa Lamani, are being shifted out. Lamani will be accommodated in a newly built suite. Covid scam documents, currently stored in three rooms, have been moved to Arogya Soudha.

Officials said the greenery will be untouched. "The CM has ordered that no trees should be cut on the premises," Kumar said.

JD(S) objects

JD(S) criticised the move, accusing the govt of altering a heritage structure. It said in a post on X: "When residences such as Kaveri and Anugraha already exist, this attempt to tamper with history is not just arrogance but the height of folly."

It added, "Kumarakrupa, where Mahatma Gandhi, once stayed and which stands as a reminder of Dewan K Seshadri Iyer's legacy, is being converted into a home office merely to satisfy a personal preference. This is nothing short of a betrayal of history. Kumarakrupa is not anyone's private property. It is ironic that those entrusted with protecting heritage structures are now responsible for their destruction (sic)."

SHORT TAKES

World Bank team meets min

Representatives of World Bank met urban development minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah at his home office and discussed ongoing projects and measures for sustainable urban growth. Discussions also covered ways to strengthen cooperation to improve civic infrastructure and service delivery in urban areas. Both sides exchanged views on future steps to enhance quality of services for city residents through better planning and execution of development works.

Plaint against BL Santosh

Congress workers filed a complaint at High Grounds police station in Bengaluru against BJP national general secretary BL Santosh, alleging derogatory remarks against India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru. The complaint states Santosh had, in a social media post, claimed Nehru prevented Vinayak Damodar Savarkar from being honoured in Parliament in 1966. Congress workers pointed out that Nehru died in 1964 and could not have prevented Parliament from paying tribute to Savarkar in 1966.

GTD won't leave, says Revanna

Former minister HD Revanna of JD(S) asserted Chamundeshwari legislator GT Devegowda will remain in the party and that any differences he may have with party brass will be resolved. Revanna insisted Devegowda will contest the next assembly election on a JD(S) ticket. "GT Devegowda will not leave JD(S)," Revanna said. "He personally met HD Deve Gowda (party supremo) to sort out issues. HD Kumaraswamy, Devegowda, SR Mahesh and I will together discuss the matter." Devegowda has been disgruntled with JD(S). He was linked to a move to Congress.

Entire B'luru devpt or alternative portfolio, Byre Gowda tells brass

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Bengaluru: Eight days after being assigned the Bengaluru development portfolio, minister Krishna Byre Gowda has not formally taken charge, amid uncertainty over control of key urban development agencies.

He is learnt to have decided against assuming office unless given full control of the portfolio or an alternative assignment, a move that piles pressure on the party high command and chief minister DK Shivakumar.

The issue is linked to Shivakumar retaining Bangalore Development Authority and Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority. Both agencies are central to infrastructure planning and execution in the city.

An aide said Byre Gowda was keen on retaining revenue but was instead allotted Bengaluru development. "He wanted to continue the work he had begun in 2023, but it went to deputy CM G Parameshwara," the aide said.

Byre Gowda's visit to New Delhi was aimed at seeking clarity on the portfolio structure, but Congress brass was engaged with developments in Madhya Pradesh following the rejection of Rajya Sabha nomination papers of party candidate Meenakshi Natarajan. The minister was expected to return to Bengaluru Thursday but postponed his return to Friday.

Despite differences, Shivakumar and Byre Gowda were seen together in Delhi during a meeting with IAS, IPS and IFS officers. They also jointly met Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to discuss funds for Karnataka projects.

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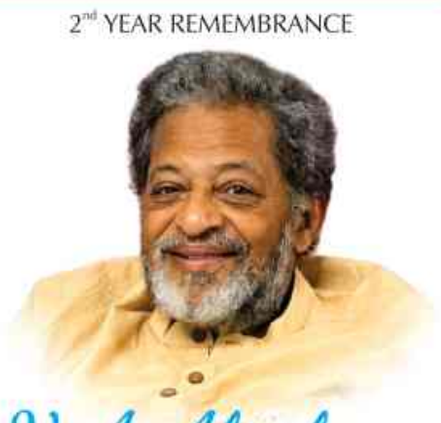

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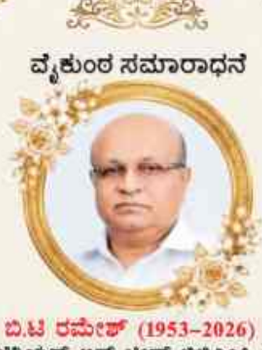

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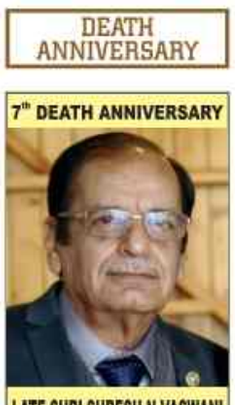

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VOICES

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'Time the things that I do and just want to keep creating'

Burden of proving cruelty lies on husband seeking divorce: Court

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The bench said although the family court was entitled to reject the wife's allegations for lack of evidence, it could not apply a different standard to the husband's claims

Bengaluru: The burden of proving cruelty lies squarely on the spouse seeking dissolution of marriage, the high court's Kalaburagi bench said while setting aside a family court order granting divorce to a husband.

The man had moved the family court seeking dissolution of marriage, alleging that his wife had subjected him to mental cruelty by accusing him of suffering from AIDS and maintaining a relationship with his colleague.

He alleged that she had deserted him by leaving the matrimonial home and refusing to return despite repeated efforts to resume cohabitation. As the family court favoured the man, his wife appealed to the high court.

A division bench, comprising Justices Suraj Govindaraj and Chillakur Sumalatha, while allowing the appeal filed by the man's wife, a resident of Bidar, said in the absence of cogent, reliable and at least minimally corroborative material, the burden cannot be said to have been discharged. The family court, in proceeding to record a finding of cruelty on such slender material, committed an error in appreciation of evidence, it added.

The couple got married in 2002 and has two sons. According to the husband, the couple's marital relationship was cordial for about three years; thereafter, disputes arose between them. It is his case that his wife left the matrimonial home and started residing with her parents, taking along the children. Despite his repeated requests, she did not resume cohabitation.

The man, a govt employee posted at different places, claimed that his wife, employed as a school principal and residing at her parental home, consistently refused to join him.

After his plea for restitution of conjugal rights was dismissed, the man filed a petition seeking divorce, on the ground of cruelty. On the other hand, the woman argued that her husband had an illicit relationship with his colleague.

On Dec 5, 2016, the family court at Bidar ruled in his favour, holding that the allegations made by the wife imputing that the husband was suffering from HIV/AIDS and the use of abusive and vulgar language would constitute cruelty within the meaning of Section 13(1)(ia) of Hindu Marriage Act-1955.

The division bench noted that if the man was indeed cohabiting with another woman, the refusal of his wife to reside with him cannot be construed as desertion.

On the contrary, such conduct on the part of the husband would constitute a valid and reasonable ground for the wife to live separately, the bench added.

The high court observed that the family court had accepted the husband's allegations without sufficient proof, effectively treating mere accusations as evidence, which is not permissible in law. The bench also noted that the family court had rejected the wife's allegations that her husband was living with another woman and had forced her out of the matrimonial home, on the ground that she had not produced evidence to support her claims. The division bench highlighted this inconsistency in the family court's approach.

The bench said although the family court was entitled to reject the wife's allegations for lack of evidence, it could not apply a different standard to the husband's claims. While the wife's allegations were dismissed because they were unsupported by evidence, the husband's allegations were accepted despite a similar lack of proof. The bench stressed that courts must apply the same evidentiary standards to both parties. One party's unverified testimony cannot be accepted while the other's is rejected for want of corroboration, unless there is a valid reason for such a distinction.

The bench directed the family court to dispose of the restored plea in six months by providing equal opportunity to both the parties to adduce further evidence as well as cross-examination on the additional material.

—**Prapti Idnani**

Gang smashes 3 cars, tries to steal valuables

Bengaluru: An attempt to steal valuables was foiled after a car owner received a late-night alert from a passerby, saying miscreants were smashing windows of Maruti Swift Dzire, Maruti Ertiga and a Toyota Innova parked in Rajendra Nagar, south Bengaluru.

One suspect, Kalib, was caught by residents and handed over to police. According to the complaint filed by activist David Kumar N, at 11.30pm on June 8, a passerby told him a group was vandalising his car. He found a man sitting inside after smashing the window glass, while others escaped. David alleged he had left pen drives and documents related to a govt land encroachment dispute in his vehicle and claimed the vandals wanted to steal them. The gang targeted two other vehicles parked in the vicinity. TNN

IIIT Dharwad students design indigenous chip

Gururaj Jamkhandi | TNN

Dharwad: In a significant step towards India's semiconductor self-reliance, a team of students from Indian Institute of Information Technology, Dharwad (IIIT Dharwad), has designed an advanced silicon chip named Siddharoodha-1, after philosopher and social reformer Siddharoodha Swami.

Siddharoodha-1 is a GPIO (general purpose input/output) expander chip designed to enhance functionality of microcontrollers and single-board computers. It enables systems to connect with a larger number of sensors, actuators and peripheral devices, thereby improving interfacing capacity and allowing multiple devices to function simultaneously.

IIIT Dharwad is among only six Indian institutions selected as part of a global semiconductor initiative involving 55 institutions worldwide. The institute collaborated with leading chip design software company Synopsys and global fabrication firm GlobalFoundries for the project.

The chip was taped out at GlobalFoundries' facility in Germany, marking a crucial stage in chip development before fabrication.

Assistant professor Jagadish DN said the chip is based on open-source RISC-V processor architecture. One of its key features is scalability, as multiple Siddharoodha-1 chips can be interconnected to significantly increase input and output capacity. This makes it suitable for industrial automation, Internet of Things, robotics and smart device applications.

The project was undertaken from May-Sept 2025. The team was led by final-year BTech electronics student Shivashankar B.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026

AKHILESH YADAV ALLEGES THAT BJP IS ATTEMPTING TO 'MANIPULATE' ELECTIONS, WARNS HIS PARTY WORKERS

HUMAN CAPITAL KEY TO 'VIKSIT MAHARASHTRA', SAYS CM FADNAVIS, SETS GOAL OF $5 TRILLION BY 2047 FOR HIS STATE

HACK OF THE DAY — **CHECK CRISIS ALERTS BEFORE TAKING A ROUTE**

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2. **Search** the area or destination you are heading to
3. **Check** whether a crisis alert appears in the map view
4. **Open** the alert to read safety information and updates
5. **Reroute** if the planned route enters an affected area

CAREFUL: Do not rely only on app during a crisis. Follow instructions from local authorities

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

29-yr-old woman caught at airport for smuggling drugs worth ₹11.8 cr

A 29-year-old woman, a relationship manager with a private bank and runner-up at a beauty contest last year, was arrested on Thursday by the customs authorities in Mumbai for smuggling nearly 12kg of hydroponic weed worth Rs 11.8 crore from Bangkok. Harsha Sunny told customs that a person who befriended her during the trip allegedly gained her confidence and persuaded her to carry a bag to India. TNN

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

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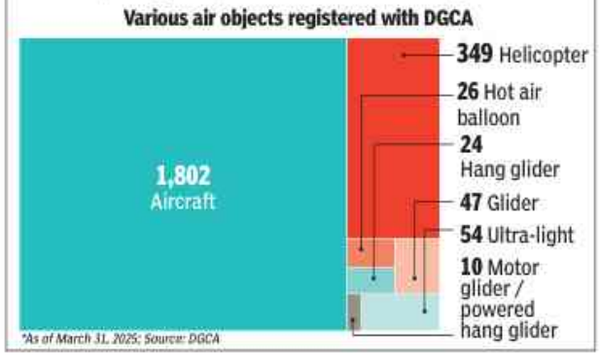
Aircraft account for nearly four in five of the 2,312 manned air objects registered with the DGCA. Apart from commercial planes, helicopters, gliders, hot air balloons and ultra-light aircraft

Various air objects registered with DGCA



*As of March 31, 2025; Source: DGCA

Avoid routine mental evaluation of children in custody battles: SC

They Are Not Evidentiary Objects: Court

LEGAL PROTECTION

New Delhi: In a significant verdict, the SC held on Thursday that children cannot be treated as "mere evidentiary objects" and that psychological or psychiatric evaluation should not be ordered routinely to satisfy the competing claims of estranged parents involved in bitter custody-and-visitation disputes.

The bench issued a slew of directions for dealing with cases involving a psychological or psychiatric evaluation of minor children in proceedings arising out of custody, visitation or parental-access disputes. The directions were issued by the bench in a verdict that modified a Bombay High Court order and set aside key directions that had allowed a four-member panel of psychologists and experts to evaluate a girl whose father is facing allegations under the Pocso Act. Justice Singh, who authored the 65-page verdict, quoted Nelson Mandela, who had said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

"In all proceedings, more particularly, involving a minor child alleged to be a victim under the Pocso Act, the paramount consideration shall always remain the welfare, emotional security, dignity and psychological wellbeing of the child," the court said.

In one of the directions, the bench said a psychological evaluation of a child victim shall not be directed as a matter of routine merely because issues of custody, visitation or parental access have arisen between the litigating parents or relatives.

"Before directing any such evaluative process concerning the child, the court shall record specific reasons demonstrating the necessity of such evaluation, the purpose sought to be achieved, the relevance of the proposed exercise and the reasons why less-intrusive alternatives would not sufficiently subserve the interests of the child," the Supreme court bench said. The verdict said courts must adopt the "principle of minimum intrusion and minimum exposure" while directing a psychological interaction with child victims. PTI

Social media access can't be misused to defame, HC tells Salman's neighbour

Swati.Deshpande
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Thursday, hearing actor Salman Khan's appeal against denial of interim relief by a trial court in a defamation suit, remarked that access to social media does not entitle individuals to publish content that could defame others, whether private citizens or celebrities. The high court orally suggested if an amicable resolution could be reached and asked Khan's Panvel farmhouse neighbour to consider deleting the posts and video which the actor alleged were defamatory.

A single-judge bench of Justice Sharmila Deshmukh indicated that parties should refrain from litigating their disputes on social media and ought to pursue legal remedies before judicial fora. Khan had alleged that the neighbour, Ketan Kakkad, had made video posts with allegedly defamatory content against him, his Panvel farm and his family. The HC posted the matter next to July 6.

The court was told that posts are by third parties, and Justice Deshmukh said that even if they are, steps can be taken to remove them through social media intermediaries. The HC said directions can be passed to intermediaries if necessary to remove posts even if posts are by a third party.

Khan had filed a defamation suit before the city civil court, which granted the actor no interim relief against the posts. Khan had in 2022 approached the HC in appeal against the trial court order.

Nipah virus confirmed, Kerala patient on ventilator support

Sreerag.Ps@timesofindia.com

Kozhikode: Kerala authorities have intensified containment measures in Kozhikode district after National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, confirmed Nipah virus infection in a 43-year-old patient from Ramanattukara town, who is now on ventilator support. He is undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of Kozhikode Medical College.

Kozhikode district collector M S Madhavikutty said a total of 77 contacts of the patient had been traced. While 14 of them are family members and five are friends and colleagues, 58 are healthcare workers. None of the contacts have reported any symptoms.

Among those kept under surveillance, two were classified in the highest-risk category, 13 in the high-risk category and 62 in the low-risk category. All individuals in the highest and high-risk categories were placed under quarantine.

"The exact source of the virus has not been determined. Two locations are being examined — the godown where the patient had kept his goods, and a fruit tree near his home. We are investigating the source," Madhavikutty said Thursday.

Field-level containment activities have already begun, though authorities have not declared any containment zones. A control room has also been opened at the district medical office to provide information and address public queries on Nipah virus. Madhavikutty said.

The collector said Kerala One Health Centre for Nipah Research, a dedicated facility in Kozhikode established by state govt, was collaborating with various departments in taking preventive measures. "Forest department has been informed that bat roosting sites need to be inspected to check whether there is any sign of numerous bat deaths," she said.

Man gets death for nephew's murder in UP

Lucknow: Ghazipur court Thursday sentenced a 33-year-old man to death for slitting the throat of his four-year-old nephew, holding that the offence fell within the 'rarest of rare' category.

The accused, Amjad Khan, was convicted under IPC section 302 for the murder of his sister's son, Daniyal Khan, following a family dispute. Moments before sentencing, the courtroom witnessed a disturbing exchange that underscored his remorseless disposition. The judge asked Amjad what he would do, if released from prison. "If someone gets into a dispute with me, I will kill him, too," he replied. TNN

FIR on comedian for 'obscene' content from standup shows posted online

Ahmed.Ali@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The cyber police have registered an FIR against standup comedian Pranit More, Himanshu Jangra and Dr Sejal Pawar, among others, for allegedly creating and circulating obscene and objectionable content on social media platforms during their standup comedy shows.

The action follows a controversy that erupted social media platforms over a clip from More's standup show, featuring Dr Sejal Pawar. In the video, Pawar makes fun of a male cadaver's private parts during post-mortem.

The clip triggered criticism on social media, with several users questioning whether the remarks were disrespectful towards deceased individuals and undermined the dignity associated with cadavers used for medical education.

Pawar later clarified that the clip was around three months old and issued an apology. The Cyber Police officers said the content was found to be disrespectful to the dignity of the deceased and in violation of standards of public decency.

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I, Brajesh Kumar, S/o Ganga Prasad, and Divya Kumari, W/o Brajesh Kumar, residing at Flat No. 210, Elite Home, Patandur Agrahara Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560066, hereby declare that the name of our daughter has been changed from "VEDIKA" to "VEDIKA VIDUSHI" vide Affidavit dated 10-06-2026 Henceforth, she shall be known as VEDIKA VIDUSHI for all purposes.

I (David Veda Prasad) S/O (Samuel V) R/O at(No 102, 1st floor, Chariziva Moonstone Apartment gopal Reddy layout dodda Banaswadi Bangalore 43) shall henceforth be known as (David Veda Prasad S) affidavit no (IN-KA8629281896918 8Y) sworn before notary (YR CHANDRASEKAR) dated (11TH JUNE 2026).

I, Abhay Anand Vatsa, residing at MD-30, HAL Township, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017, have changed my name to Ubhay Anand Vatsa vide affidavit dated 10-06-2026 sworn before Notary N. Kanchivaradaraju, Bangalore.

I, Khushboo residing at No 45/A, 2nd Main, 5th Cross, Bapujinagar, Bangalore 560026 have changed my Name from Kushboo R to Khushboo vide affidavit dated 06-06-2026 Sworn before H.S Sakalesh Aradhya notary public.

I, PARNIKA GEORGE, D/o Vijaya George, R/o, JP Nagar VIII Phase, Bengaluru have changed my name from PARNIKA to PARNIKA GEORGE for all future purposes.

I, THARUN J, residing at No. 985, 10th Cross, SBM Colony, Girinagara, Bangalore 560050, have changed my name as J TARUN, vide affidavit dated 10/06/2026 sworn before Notary Mamata N K, Bangalore.

I, Harine Sonasalamuthu D/o Sonasalamuthu Kuppusamy R/o D001, Amara Court Yard Apartments, Munekolala Main Road, Marathahalli, Bangalore North, Karnataka - 560037 have changed my name from Harine Sonasalamuthu Kuppusamy to Harine Sonasalamuthu vide Affidavit No IN-KA8635598809729Y dated 11-06-2026 before notary S.Subashini, Bengaluru for all purposes.

I, Saravana Sundari Kandasamy Krishnan, W/O; Shunmuga Krishnan Senthil Arumugam, R/O: A-306, Creative Residency, 24th Main, Sector 2, HSR Layout, BLR - 560102. Have changed my name as Saravana Sundari Kandaswamy.

I Vani W/o Pranesh Upashi, #210, VM Serenity,Horamavu, Bangalore have changed my name from Vani Vishwanath Shringeri to Vani Pranesh Upashi vide affidavit dated 03-10-2017.

I, Harini Kulkarni, R/o D714 Sterling Brookeside, Brookfield, Bangalore. Changed my name as Harini V Kulkarni.

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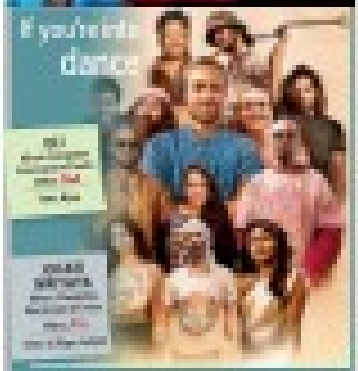
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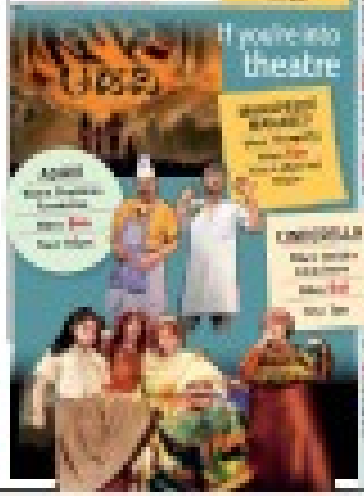
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SC: Dismiss staff only for grave violations like graft

'Insubordination, Indiscipline Not Reasons Enough For Sacking'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

A SCAR: SC said being fired left a 'permanent stigma' on an individual's service record and may impair future employment prospects

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Thursday has said that a long-standing employee cannot be dismissed from service for indiscipline, insubordination or disobedience and such a penalty must be reserved for cases of corruption, moral turpitude or mala fide actions causing loss to the employer.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N K Singh said it was not making light of the importance of discipline at the workplace, but in the absence of "corruption, illegal gratification, moral turpitude, misappropriation of funds, proved losses to employer, public scandal or conduct bringing the organisation to disrepute", an employee could not be visited with the extreme penalty of dismissal.

"The punishment must bear a reasonable relationship with the gravity of the misconduct, the past service record, the surrounding circumstances and the impact of the misconduct on the establishment...," the bench said.

Rescinding the 2017 order firing an employee of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd, SC pointed out that a dismissal permanently severs the employee-employer relationship and deprives the employee of their retirement benefits.

"It does not lead merely to the loss of the existing source of income for the employee but also for the dependent family members," the court added.

Justice Singh said being fired left a "permanent stigma" on a person's service record and may impair future employment prospects, "particularly in public employment, statutory bodies, public sector undertakings and other regulated establishments where antecedents and service record are material".

"For this reason, dismissal must remain reserved for cases where the misconduct is of the most serious nature where elements of sympathetic consideration would be undesirable and inappropriate," Justice Singh said.

Considering the 21 years of service rendered by the employee, who is now past retirement age, the bench directed the authorities to reconsider the nature of the penalty that ought to be imposed on her for the alleged indiscipline, insubordination, disobedience and destruction of official documents.

16 years in jail without bail, dacoity accused pleads guilty to walk free

Noida: Having spent several more years in jail than time stipulated under law and with his trial yet not coming to a close, a man accused in a dacoity case in 2010 took the shortest path he could to freedom. He pleaded guilty. Rihaan, a Gautam Budh Nagar resident, spent the entire time since his arrest behind bars, never seeking bail and testifying in court for the first time in 2024. On Tuesday, after his guilty plea brought the need for any further court proceedings to an end, the additional sessions court awarded him eight years' rigorous imprisonment for dacoity, **reports Jaideep Deogharia**.

The verdict means he will walk free after spending 16 years in custody, six more than the maximum term under the IPC section he was charged with. On July 27, 2010, an FIR was filed against Rihaan under IPC section 395 (dacoity). As per the complaint, Rihaan and his associates barged into a house in Sec 41 and robbed the occupants of jewellery, Rs 21,000-22,000 in cash, a driving licence, purse and other belongings.

Delhi University teacher finds his PhD data used in another faculty's thesis

New Delhi: In the 1990s, Kumar Ram Krishna spent years learning to read and write Dhundhari, a language that originated in Rajasthan and only a handful of people can read. He used it to trace trade practices and the emergence of Jaipur, and was awarded a PhD in 2006.

Last year, Krishna, who now teaches at Delhi University's College of Vocational Studies, stumbled upon what he believes were his primary data and research findings appearing in another scholar's work, **reports Sugandha Jha**.

His discovery and a subsequent complaint triggered a plagiarism probe into another DU faculty member's doctorate, awarded in 2014 under the same supervisor in the department of history.It also raised questions about the scrutiny of older theses stored in the university library.

Delhi police: Main case against NewsClick not quashed, still in court

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi police officers clarified on Thursday that their main case against NewsClick website, registered under UAPA and being investigated by the special cell, was not quashed and is at an advanced stage in court.

Arguments on framing of charges will begin shortly, police said, adding that the FIR quashed earlier by the Delhi high court was in relation to another case being probed by the Economic Offences Wing.

The main case, Delhi police said, pertained to an alleged transnational conspiracy aimed at undermining the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India, orchestrated through a complex network of foreign funding and media manipulation.

The prosecution has alleged that NewsClick was used as a strategic platform to champion narratives deeply detrimental to India's national interests. The police had conducted massive raids at around 95 locations in Oct 2023 and questioned around 116 individuals and seized 493 electronic devices. NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and HR head Amit Chakraborty, the main accused, were arrested during the operation. Chakraborty turned approver later.

Through digital forensic analysis, police have, in this case, claimed to have retrieved around 3,000 emails. Police claim that the portal allegedly portrayed Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh as disputed territories by distorting official maps, praised China's response to Covid-19 while criticising India's efforts, and funnelled resources into fuelling the anti-CAA/NRC and farmers' protests. Investigators also claim to have recovered literature directly linking the organisation's operations to Maoist ideology and the banned CPI (Maoist).

According to police, massive funds were illegally routed into India between 2018 and 2023 via foreign entities with the objective of executing Chinese-linked influence operations on Indian soil. NewsClick has denied all allegations.

10 shots in 4 secs: Gym trainer shot dead in Haryana

Kumar Mukesh | TNN

Hisar: A 25-year-old gym trainer was riddled with bullets from point-blank range while conducting an outdoor session with trainees in Haryana's Hansi town, sending shockwaves through the region. Shot 10 times, Kapil Redhu died on the spot. A trainee was injured by a splinter, reports Kumar Rakesh.

The murder, caught on CCTV camera, took a dramatic turn in the afternoon when a social media post purportedly linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang claimed responsibility. Police are verifying its authenticity and are yet to ascertain the motive for the brazen public murder.

Redhu also had run-ins with the law and faced charges of attempted murder. A native of Jind, he moved to Hansi three years ago and set up a gym.

Around 5.25am, he was putting half a dozen of his gym members through a warm-up session when the killers struck. CCTV footage shows Redhu directing the trainees when two men rode up on a motorcycle. The driver was in a full-face helmet and the pillion-rider wore a cap and a mask and had a large blue rucksack.

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Split Lok Sabha's 170 large constituencies: PM's council

'Targeted Criterion' For Delimitation To Raise Seats To 824

Shiva.Rajora@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As govt gears to undertake delimitation exercise in the coming month, a working paper by Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has suggested India should split Lok Sabha's 170 large constituencies using a "targeted criterion" instead of a uniform one to raise the total strength of the House to 824 from 543.

The paper by EAC-PM member Shamika Ravi and Mudit Kapoor of Indian Statistical Institute has proposed splitting 59 constituencies into two and 111 constituencies into three. This exercise is expected to increase voter turnout in the next general election by between 0.3 and 2.3 percentage points (ppt), corresponding to 90 lakh to 2.3 crore additional voters, it said.

Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) member Shamika Ravi and Mudit Kapoor of Indian Statistical Institute have proposed splitting 59 constituencies into two and 111 constituencies into three

According to the model proposed by the paper, Kerala and Tamil Nadu alone will account for 22 of the 59 proposed two-way splits. In cases of three-way splits, the lion's share will be in Uttar Pradesh (17), followed by Maharashtra (12), Bihar (10), and West Bengal (10).

As a result, the number of seats in southern states is expected to rise — in Telangana from 17 to 26, Andhra Pradesh from 25 to 38, Karnataka from 28 to 42, Tamil Nadu from 39 to 59 and Kerala from 20 to 30. Among northern and western states, seats will rise from 48 to 72 in Maharashtra, 25 to 38 in Rajasthan, 80 to 120 in Uttar Pradesh, 29 to 44 in Madhya Pradesh, 26 to 39 in Gujarat and 40 to 60 in Bihar.

The paper stated that implementing the formula will keep the share of seats of southern states and the more populous northern and western states in LS broadly unchanged: 23.6% versus 23.7%, and 45.2% versus 45.6%, respectively.

Highlighting growing constituency size as a challenge, it noted that the median LS constituency in 2024 had 18.2 lakh registered electors, while the largest constituencies had more than 32 lakh voters. It also said that large constituencies have high voter loads and uneven participation by different groups which amplify representation gaps. The paper advocated measures such as women-only polling booths and extending polling hours.

TMC plunges into deeper crisis as 3rd RS MP quits

Times News Network

New Delhi: Crisis in TMC deepened on Thursday with its Rajya Sabha MP Prakash Chik Baraik resigning from the party and upper House, making him the third to do so since Monday, even as some senior functionaries, such as Shatrughan Sinha, Babul Supriyo and Sougata Roy, came out strongly to back their chief Mamata Banerjee.

"People of West Bengal have given their mandate to BJP. TMC didn't win (assembly polls). Looking at the mandate..., I am resigning from the party," Baraik told reporters outside BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's residence. Before him, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy resigned from RS on Monday, followed by Sushmita Dev.

> **People of West Bengal have given their mandate to BJP. TMC didn't win (assembly polls). Looking at the mandate... I am resigning from the party**
>
> **PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK**
> Rajya Sabha MP

In an interview with PTI, he said, "I will work as per directions of CM Suvendu Adhikari and PM Narendra Modi. I want to work for the people where I come from."

Meanwhile, dismissing speculation of him being part of the TMC rebel group of 19 MPs, Lok Sabha member Sinha said, "When I was going through a difficult phase after losing the Patna election in 2019, very few people stood by me. Mamata Banerjee was among the few who supported and encouraged me."

"I want to state clearly that Mamata ji stood by me during my difficult times, and today, in her difficult phase, I cannot abandon her. It's now my duty to stand by her in this moment as well," he said. Sinha — a former BJP member — on Thursday congratulated PM on completing 12 years in office.

Lok Sabha MP Pratima Mondol also refuted rumours that she was part of the rebel camp.

'Cannot work with Abhishek'

▶ Continued from page 1

His silence fuelled speculation and added to unease inside a party already battling defections.

Kalyan's outburst came just 48 hours after he spearheaded a TMC protest at Mamata's Kalighat residence when a CID team entered the premises to investigate alleged forged signatures on a May 6 letter sent to assembly speaker proposing Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay's name as leader of opposition. Several TMC MLAs — now backing BJP-led NDA — alleged their signatures were forged on that document.

Kalyan said he learned only late Wednesday that a separate writ petition challenging CID searches had been filed in HC without consulting him. He spent the night preparing for the hearing, only to find that advocate Ayan Bhattacharjee would argue the matter and that he and Sirsanya could "assist".

"His habit of showing disrespect has not changed. He thinks everyone is beneath him, as if everyone is an employee of Camac Street. I have been in this profession for 45 years," Kalyan said.

His anger underscored a widening fault line inside TMC, where Abhishek has increasingly become a rallying point for politicians weighing whether to stay with Mamata or shift camps. "I am with Didi. But I will not tolerate Abhishek Banerjee's disrespect and arrogance. I cannot work with Abhishek. If Didi thinks she cannot work without Abhishek, then I will have to take my own decision."

Despite the broadside, Kalyan later appeared in HC to argue TMC's petition challenging Ritabrata Banerjee's appointment as leader of opposition. Sirsanya echoed his father's frustration. "The problem is that Abhishek Banerjee cannot trust anyone. He is trying to create a second line. That is not the system," he said.

Abhishek's legal matters were previously handled by Aqilaw, which announced after May 4 that it no longer represented him. Several cases were subsequently taken up by Sirsanya.

TMC brass avoided taking sides.

Former TMC councillor hit with eggs & bricks by mob

Dwaipayan.Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Tension gripped north Kolkata's Jorabagan area after a mob allegedly assaulted a former Trinamool Congress councillor and her family member, pelting them with eggs and bricks and vandalising her property earlier this week.

The alleged attack occurred on June 9 outside the residence of Sikha Saha at Shankar Haldar Lane around 2.45pm. Saha, who earlier served as the municipal representative of ward 19 under Kolkata Municipal Corporation, lodged a formal complaint with Jorabagan PS on Wednesday, based on which cops registered a case under BNS Sections 118 (1), 79, 351(2), 324(2), and 54.

According to police sources, trouble began when a woman who identified herself as a resident of the locality arrived at Saha's residence to have a certificate/form signed. "I went downstairs, spoke with the woman and explained that since the KMC municipal board has been dissolved, I no longer had the authority to sign any certificate as a municipal representative. My brother-in-law was present at the spot when I was explaining this," Saha said.

Soon after, a group of men and women gathered outside her home and began pressuring her aggressively. The situation deteriorated rapidly, Saha claimed. "They verbally abused me and threw eggs and bricks at me, my brother-in-law, and at the doors and windows of the house," she alleged.

Rahul cites fate of other parties to highlight Cong's uniqueness

Times News Network

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday told party leaders that while Trinamool Congress (TMC) has collapsed like a pack of cards and parties like Shiv Sena and NCP have split, Congress has stood firm and united despite Narendra Modi's trying every stratagem to target it over the last 12 years.

In a meeting of Congress state in-charges and state presidents to finalise an agitation plan over burning issues which was attended by party president Mallikarjun Kharge, KC Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Rahul weighed in on the political crises facing INDIA bloc allies, including TMC.

IANS

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with LOP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and AICC gen secy Priyanka Gandhi at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday

Setting Congress apart from others, he is learnt to have said that some of its members may have defected, but the party as an institution has remained united because of its ideological steadfastness and refusal to compromise. He said the quality makes Congress the only party that can take on RSS-BJP.

Calling the rejection of RS nomination papers of Meenakshi Natarajan "seat chori" by BJP, Rahul said BJP finds it easier to "fix the election than to win it".

Venugopal announced two-month-long nationwide agitation on price rise, exam crises and unemployment.

Can expelled MLA be appointed LoP, HC asks

Srishti.Lakhotia
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Calcutta high court Thursday asked Bengal assembly speaker Rathindra Bose whether an expelled MLA can be appointed leader of the opposition (LoP) and directed him to file an affidavit along with the order of appointment.

Justice Krishna Rao will hear on June 16 a petition filed by TMC MLA Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay challenging the Speaker's decision appointing Ritabrata Banerjee as the LoP. Senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee, representing Chattopadhyay, argued that it is the political party, and not its legislative unit, that appoints the LoP. He questioned whether the speaker's decision despite a resolution by TMC appointing Ballygunge MLA Chattopadhyay as LoP was lawful.

RS polls fizzle into unopposed wins

Times News Network

Bhopal/Bengaluru/Jaipur: Rajya Sabha contests in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan ended without a vote Thursday, handing BJP a clean sweep of 3 seats in MP and returning unopposed 3 Congress candidates and 1 BJP in Karnataka, and 2 BJP and 1 Congress nominee in Rajasthan.

In Madhya Pradesh, BJP nominees Tarun Chugh, Rajneesh Agarwal and Mahesh Kewat were declared elected after the 3pm withdrawal deadline passed and Congress nominee Meenakshi Natarajan's rejected nomination remained unrestored.

Natarajan's nomination was rejected during scrutiny over alleged concealment of information linked to a Telangana case.

The row capped one of MP's most turbulent Rajya Sabha battles in years after BJP's surprise decision to field Kewat for a third seat despite lacking clear numbers. BJP, with 164 MLAs in 230-member assembly, was comfortably placed to bag two seats. A candidate needed 58 votes to win. BJP's decision to field a third candidate sparked fears of cross-voting and poaching in Congress camp before Natarajan's nomination was rejected.

Rajasthan's biennial election also turned into a walkover. BJP's Satish Poonia and Alka Gurjar, along with Congress nominee Neeraj Dangi, were elected unopposed after nominations closed. The outcome preserves the status quo in the state's RS representation, with BJP and Congress holding 5 seats each in the 10-member delegation.

PM urges adopting global best practices

▶ Continued from page 1

For ease of doing business, states were asked to identify the trouble spots and address them," Lahiri said.

NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba said PM's focus of easier regime should go up to the city-level. Besides, those privy to the discussions told TOI that the PM underlined the need to ensure that reforms go beyond announcements and are actually implemented. They said Modi reiterated the need to ensure that services were available to citizens easily and that they should not be required to visit govt offices, while urging states to compete on this count and asking NITI to devise strategies to address the issue. Lahiri said that another focus area was on rapid grievance redressal.

Given the current challenges, especially on the energy front, Centre and states discussed how to make energy prices competitive, while ensuring its availability. Discussions to step up efforts on solar energy, biogas as well as a reference to the private sector being allowed into the nuclear energy space at the meeting was seen as an effort to cut reliance on fossil fuel.

Responding to a question on the West Asia crisis and energy security, Lahiri said: "You can't change the wind, you can only trim your sails. The West Asia crisis, India is playing its role, our foreign ministry is playing its role... Just because the West Asia crisis is there, we can't be paralysed. We have to keep doing our work, and that is what is happening."

IAN5/PMO

PM Narendra Modi chairs the 11th meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog in New Delhi on Thursday

All CMs attend, in a 1st

New Delhi: Thursday's meeting marked the first occasion when CMs of all 28 states attended the NITI Aayog governing council deliberations with CMs steering clear of any political rancour. Officials present in the meeting said that the meeting was held in a very conducive manner with no political issues being flagged and defence minister Rajnath Singh even noted the amiable mood.

During the meeting, Modi also emphasized the need to further strengthen the push towards self-reliance and highlighted the importance of adopting and implementing global best practices, especially in the renewable energy space.

There was also emphasis on water conservation in the wake of El Nino conditions and promote organic farming to reduce dependence on chemical fertiliser. The PM also urged states to focus on nurturing sporting talent instead of merely offering cash rewards to sportspersons. He suggested that states should focus on education, skilling and capacity building.

DKS highlights K'taka's economic contribution

▶ Continued from page 1

He also sought Rs 25,000 crore annually for Kalyana Karnataka under Article 371(J).

The development marks a clear departure from the stance of the Siddaramaiah-led govt, which had stayed away from such meetings over the past two years, citing concerns over alleged neglect of the state's demands.

Addressing the NITI Aayog meeting, Shivakumar highlighted Karnataka's economic contribution and its role in national growth and called for a development model focused on measurable outcomes and stronger Centre participation in state-led programmes.

On urban infrastructure, the state sought approval for Bengaluru Suburban Rail, Bengaluru–Mumbai High Speed Rail Corridor, Regional Rapid Rail Transit System links to nearby cities, and Metro Phase 3 and Phase 3A of Namma Metro under BMRCL. It also requested approval for revised cost escalation for Metro Phase 2.

On irrigation, Karnataka sought early clearance for Mekedatu, notification of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal II award, and financial support for Upper Krishna Project Stage III. It said Rs 5,300 crore central assistance for the Upper Bhadra project is still pending.

The CM said, "PM Modi has publicly congratulated me after I was sworn in as the CM. I also want to work cordially with the Centre because I know what Karnataka needs because the world is looking at India through Bangalore. There is a need to create infrastructure in Karnataka for all sections, not just for urban mobility, but we also need to look at agriculture," he said.

ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ ನಿ.,ವಿಜಯಪುರ
ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ನಗರ, ಸೋಲಾಪೂರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ-586103
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ/3461/2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11-06-2026
:: ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ::
ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ. ವಿಜಯಪುರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಹಾಗೂ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ KW-6 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ದರಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಹ್ಯೂಕ್ಯುರಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಚಾರಿಸಬಹುದು. (ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಬಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನ ಅಧಿಯಂತರರು-9448460271)

ಅ.ನಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಈ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ದರ್ಜೆ
1.	Construction of VDCC Bank Training Center Building at Vijayapur (Indent No : VDCCBL/2026-27/BD/ WORK_INDENT10/ CALL-2)	3216.00	32.16	1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

1)ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26-06-2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
2)ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-06-2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3)ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 01-07-2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಸಹಿ/-
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ ನಿ., ವಿಜಯಪುರ.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN E-TENDER
The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in →login →E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any. Dy.CMM/P/ CLW/ Chittaranjan, 9163340721 or AMM/P, 9163342746. Office Address: Office of The PCMM /CLW/Chittaranjan.
[A] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 06/06/2026. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 91260884. Brief Description of Item: Machined Stator Assembly for 3-Phase TM type 6FRA 6068, Drg. No.: 1TWD.096.102, Alt-14 or latest, Specn. No.: 4TMS.096.070, Rev.-2, Alt-1, STR No: CLW/TM/18600 Rev. 2 or latest.[Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. Quantity: 1583.00 set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹ 2000000.00. Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 29/06/2026 at 11:00 AM.
[B] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/ e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 09/06/2026. Sl. No.:[1]. Tender No.: 74263706. Brief Description of Item: Set of Chain (Bogie-Body Chain) With Minimum Breaking Force 1120 KN for WAG- 9HC to CLW Specn. No: CLW/MS/3/118 [Set Consisting of 02 (Two) Items as per Set Details Attached] [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. Quantity: 794.00 Set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹ 232970.00. Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 07/07/2026 at 11:00 AM.
PR3/371 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan
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RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
YELAHANKA, BENGALURU – 560 064.
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
E-Auction Notice No. RWF/GSD/WD-30/ 2026-2027/02 Dated: 06.06.2026
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Material Manager, Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka, invites E-Auction for the sale of scrap items (Ferrous/ Non Ferrous/ Miscellaneous and Others), online through the website www.ireps.gov.in
E-Auction dates for the month of
July- 07.07.2026, 17.07.2026, 28.07.2026
August- 06.08.2026, 18.08.2026, 27.08.2026
September- 08.09.2026, 17.09.2026 and 29.09.2026
The quantity indicated in the e-auction catalogue is only approximate, E-auction catalogue can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in, before 7days (Seven days) from the date of E-auction.
Deputy Chief Materials Manager-Depot

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/26/20, Dated: 05/06/2026. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl. No.: Tender No.: Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost are as follows : [054]: 23265013B; 1) 3-pin complete coupler (with male and female part) (Part no. KPSE7E12-3P DZ & KPSE6E12-3S DZ or equivalent) for fitment to sensor plate as per CLW drawing no. CLW/ES/3/SK-2/0153, Rev-04 and CLW specification no. CLW/ES/3/0528, Alt. A, 2) 5-pin complete coupler (with male and female part) (Part no. KPSE7E14-5P DZ & KPSE6E14-5S DZ or equivalent) for fitment to sensor plate as per CLW drawing no. CLW/ES/3/SK-2/0153, Rev-04 and CLW specification no. CLW/ES/3/0528, Alt. A; As Per Tender/Document, 17/06/2026; ₹ 0.00. [055]: 29262570A; Set of PU Paints for WAG-9HC (In-house) as per Drg. No. Category No-T/9/0034 as per Specn. M&C/PCN/100/2018 or latest. [Quantity Toferance (+/-): 5 %, Item Category : Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/Document; 29/06/2026; ₹ 0.00. [056]: 31262938; Sealing Adhesive, Loctite or Equivalent, As Per Specification No. CLW/MS/3/BOGIE/005 Alt. 2 (Shelf Life - 18 Months). Set details as per Category Book attached in doc.tab,] [Warranty Period: 12 Months after the date of delivery]; As Per Tender/Document, 19/08/2026; ₹ 0.00.
PR2/370 PCMM/CLW/Howrah
"Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways"

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
Request for Proposal (RfP) on e-procurement
The APTRANSCO invites online bids for RFP No. STAMC/2026-27 for Request for Proposal for "Providing Consulting Services to set-up State Transmission Asset Management Centre (STAMC) & ISO 55001 Asset Management Practices". The tender document can be downloaded from website http//tender.apeprocurement.gov.in from 11:00 hrs on Dt: 12.06.2026. Contact no's - 0866-2429230 Extn: 2024, 3434.
R.O.No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/80/26-27 Sd/- Chief Engineer/Transmission

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/183/2026 Dated: 15-05-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Annual Maintenance of IPMS Software at South Western Railway Construction Office Bengaluru. (Tender Ref. No: BNC-IPMS-AMC-2026)	Rs. 37,80,000/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	Modified
09-06-2026 (15:00 Hrs)	16-06-2026 (15:00 Hrs)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/203/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
E - TENDER NOTICE No. : RWF/M/M&P/OT/25-26/PNG-TPHO-MR/RT-1 dated: 09/06/2026
e - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works)
Tender No. : RWF/M/M&P/OT/25-26/PNG-TPHO-MR/RT-1 dated: 09/06/2026. Name of the work: Fabrication , Installation, Testing & commissioning of PNG Pipeline to Tube preheating stands in Mould room. Estimated Cost: Rs.15,19,604. Bid Security (EMD) : Rs.30,400/-. Date & Time of Closing of Tenders: 01/07/2026 at 10.30 Hrs. Completion Period: 6 months.
This tender notice can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
DY. CME/M&P

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
Tender Notice No. DRMENGGRNC-40 & 41-2026. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E. Railway, Ranchi for & on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work. Sl. No., Notice No. & Name of work are as follows : 1. DRMENGGRNC-40-2026. Elimination of manned LC No. CM-17, CM-37 & CM-40 by constructing RUB in Muri-Chandil section in Ranchi Division. Tender Value : ₹ 40,57,85,335.58, EMD Value : ₹ 81,15,700/-. 2. DRMENGGRNC-41-2026. Elimination of manned LC No. MK-4, MK-5 & MK-11 by constructing RUB in Muri-Kotshila section in Ranchi Division. Tender Value : ₹ 38,15,52,038.59, EMD Value : ₹ 76,31,100/-. Tender Closing date & time: 30.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for each. Tenderers can visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for online tendering. (PR-311)

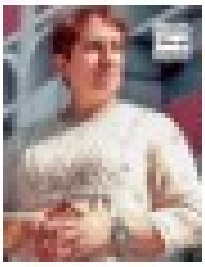
Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
Office of the Director, No. 49, Khanija Bhavan, South Block, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001 Phone No:22384134/35
No. DMG-17012/26/2025/2026-27 Dated: 06.06.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Department of Mines and Geology is calling tender for auction of seized generated iron ore fines under respective notification through MSTC.
Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Separate Lot wise auction notifications are published in MSTC portal. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process of respective lots shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd. https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/aucsearch/search.jsp
The auction of old stock for each lot is "AS IS WHERE IS AND NO COMPLAINT BASIS". The interested bidders shall ascertain the quantity and quality of the Iron /Manganese ore before participation. The Department is not responsible for any dispute arising after confirmation of the bid. Interested bidders may visit the MSTC Ltd website.
Sd/-
Director,
Department of Mines & Geology
DIPR/CP/1106/NR/2026-27

32001/380/2627
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, ANANDAPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA
E-mail id: cceabp@gmail.com
E-procurement Notice No. CCEABP- 03 of 2026-27

E-Procurement officer	Name of the work	Bid id No	Tender cost in Lakhs (Appx)	Bid security in Lakhs (online)	Cost of Bid Document (Online)	Class of contractor	Period of completion	Availability of tender on line for bidding From	Availability of tender on line for bidding To	Date of opening of technical Bid (Cover- 1)
Chief Construction Engineer A.B Project, Salapada	Excavation and Cement Concrete Lining of Batarani Right Bank Canal (BRBC) from RD 6.81 km to RD 9.00 km (Balance work) including construction of structures and service road	ABP-ACD-01/03 of 2026-27	1416.00	14.16	10,000/-	'A' & 'Spl' Class	12 (Twelve) calendar month	18.06.26 11.30AM	07.07.26 5.00PM	08.07.26 11.30AM

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in / www.dowrodisha.gov.in. Addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only.
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada.
OIPR-32001/32180/1/26-27/0003

34001/330/2627
GOVERNEMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone : 0680-2281582, e-mail : ccescbam@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-03/2026-27 No. 2532 // Dated : 05.06.26
1) The Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building work as detailed in the table below.
2) Nature of work : Building Work
3) No. of work : 01 No.
4) Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/- (online)
5) Class of Contractor :"A" Class / Special Class
6) Availability of Bid document in the website : 20.06.2026 10.00 AM to 06.07.2026 5.30 PM
7) Date of Opening of Bid : 07.07.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in.
9) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.
Sd/- (Damodar Kaibartta)
Chief Construction Engineer,
Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-34001/34103/1/26-27/0003



'Our filmmakers must view Cannes as an ongoing investment'

A TATA PRODUCT
TANEIRA
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INAYA
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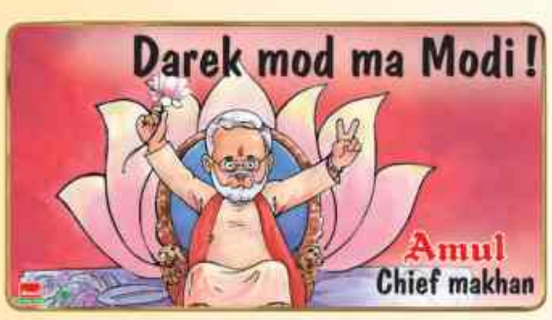
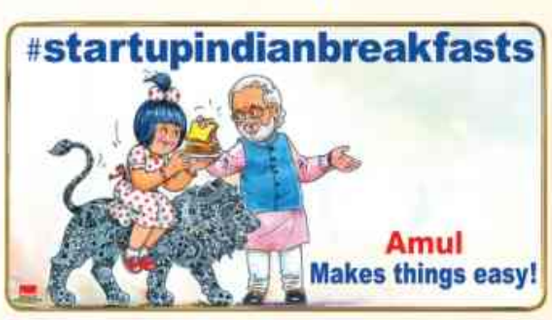
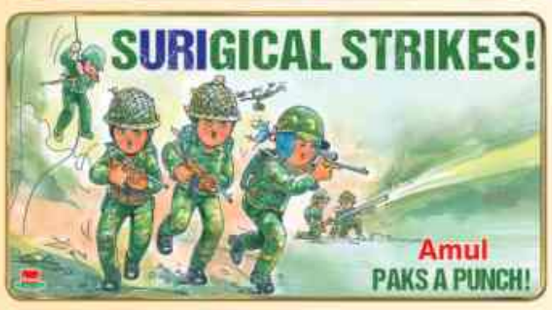
Amul

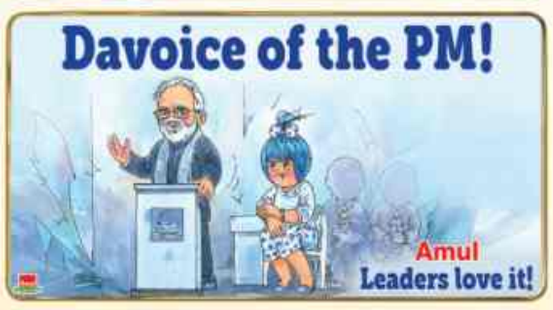
SIR, YOU ARE TRULY A DYNAMO

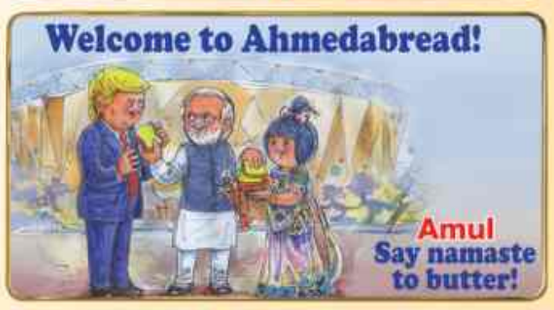
Modiji, congratulations on serving as the longest running PM of India, completing 4400 days in office. We are pleased to share the historic milestones achieved under your visionary leadership.

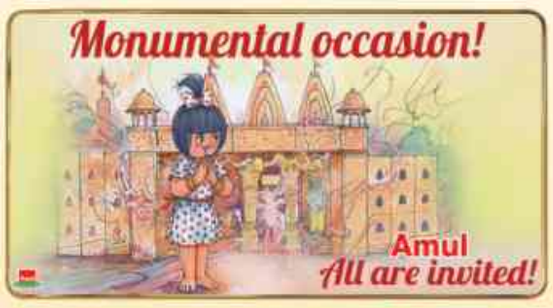


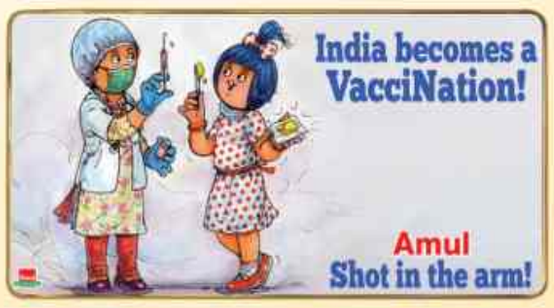


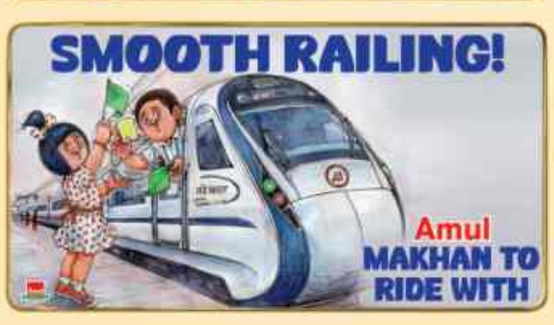


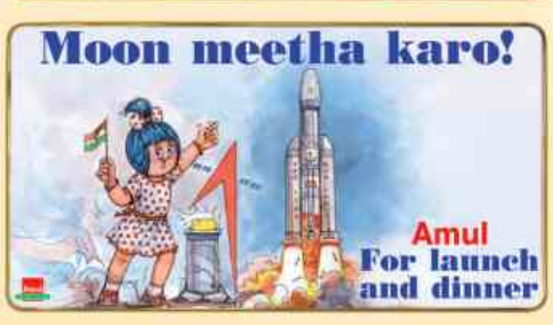


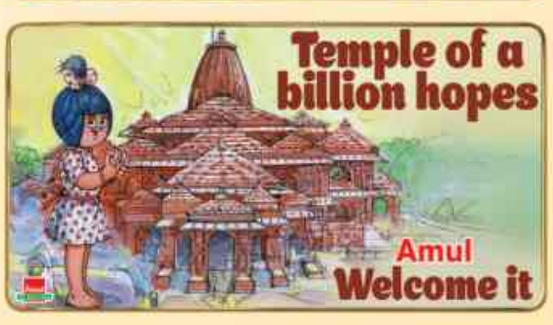


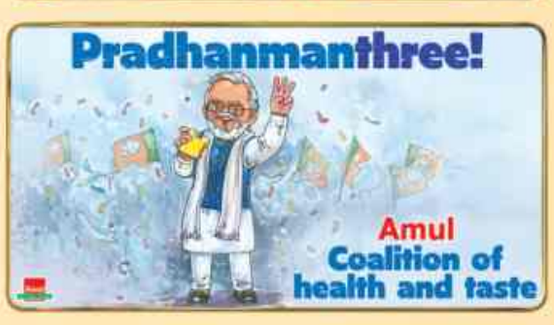


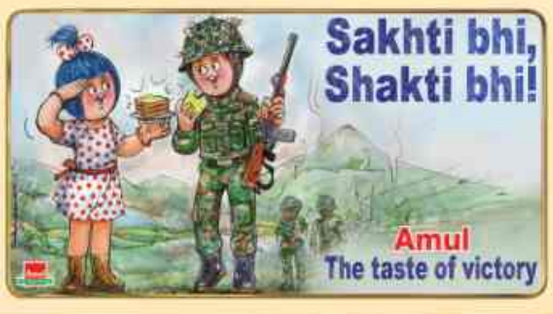


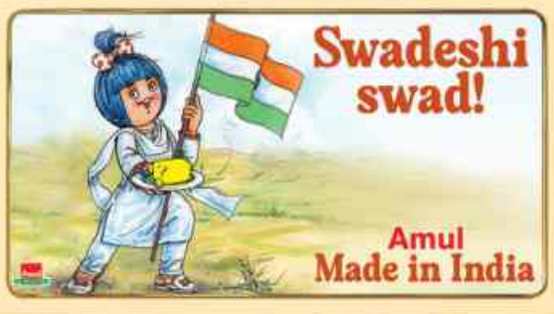


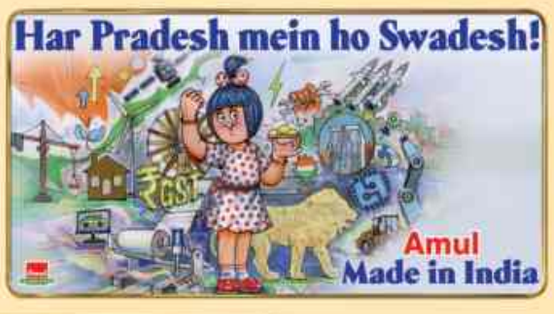


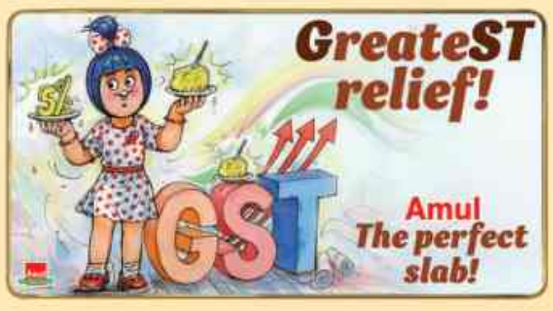


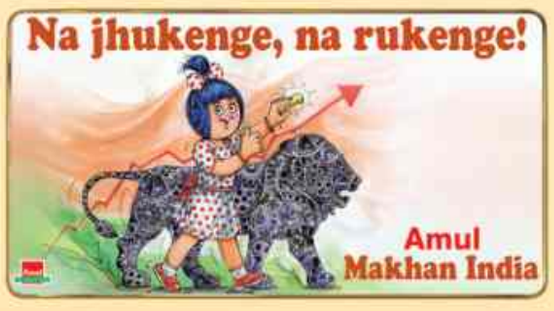












daCunha/AB/06-26/Eng

Pragati Path@ 12 Varsh

Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-kalyan ke

A NEW CHAPTER OF PROGRESS

Uttar Pradesh under India's development vision

PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT

Over the past several years, Uttar Pradesh has undergone a remarkable transformation through a series of flagship programmes and development initiatives led by the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Focused on inclusive growth, improved infrastructure and enhanced citizen welfare, these efforts have touched nearly every aspect of public life. From strengthening agricultural prosperity and expanding healthcare access, to improving housing, sanitation, connectivity and financial inclusion, the initiatives have delivered tangible benefits to millions across the state. Significant investments in infrastructure, industry, digital governance and social welfare have further accelerated economic growth and created new opportunities for communities and businesses alike. Several key schemes, policies and achievements have contributed to Uttar Pradesh's development journey and its emergence as an increasingly dynamic growth engine of the nation.

HOUSING, FOOD SECURITY & SOCIAL WELFARE

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)

- More than 62 lakh families allotted permanent houses, with majority of allotments made in the name of women

Free Ration Distribution Programme

- 3.63 crore+ beneficiaries receiving free ration every month

Ayushman Bharat

- More than 5.76 crore Ayushman Cards issued, providing access to cashless healthcare to more than 9 crore people

PM SVANidhi

- Financial assistance extended to 15.31 lakh+ street vendors

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- Benefits extended to 60 lakh mothers

EMPLOYMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & MSMEs

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

- Financial assistance amounting to ₹58,111.79 crore

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

- 32,936 beneficiaries assisted
- Assistance of ₹1,105.49 crore provided
- Employment generated for 2,63,488 persons

MSME Hub

- More than 96 lakh MSME units are operational, generating 4,51,775 employment opportunities

One District One Product

- Under the scheme, margin money assistance worth ₹90,364 lakh has been disbursed, leading to the creation of 3,26,473 employment opportunities

AGRICULTURE & FARMER WELFARE

Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

- 492.46 lakh Kisan Credit Cards distributed

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- Compensation of ₹6,283.92 crore paid to 79.51 lakh farmers

Sugarcane Sector Development

- More than ₹3.12 lakh crore paid to sugarcane farmers as cane price payments. Over 1.48 lakh women sugarcane farmers have been registered
- Ranked first in India for the fourth consecutive time in sugarcane, sugar, ethanol, and sanitiser production

Contribution to India's foodgrain production

- Uttar Pradesh contributes 21% to country's total foodgrain production
- Foodgrain production has increased by 32%, rising from 557.46 lakh tonnes (2016-17) to 737.40 lakh tonnes (2024-25)

ROADS, EXPRESSWAYS & CONNECTIVITY

Major Expressway Development

- Purvanchal Expressway-341 km
- Bundelkhand Expressway-296 km
- Agra-Lucknow Expressway-302 km
- Ganga Expressway-594 km
- Gorakhpur Link Expressway-91 km

Metro

- Metro rail projects have been expanded across Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, and Noida

State with the highest number of airports in India

- The state has 17 operational airports, including 5 international airports and 12 domestic airports

LAW & ORDER & GOVERNANCE

Police Modernisation

- 2,21,199 police personnel recruited

Women's Safety

- Expansion of women police recruitment and dedicated safety initiatives

UP-112 Emergency Response

- Average response time reduced from over one hour to approximately 6 minutes 41 seconds

Cyber Security

- Expansion of cybercrime police stations and digital policing infrastructure

Crime Reduction

- Significant reduction in major crimes when compared to 2016, including: • Dacoity-90% • Robbery-85% • Kidnapping-62% • Murder-47% • Crimes against women (Dowry cases-19%, Rape-53%)

EDUCATION, YOUTH & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Digital Empowerment

- Distribution of more than 49.86 lakh tablets and smartphones

Recruitment

- UPPSC: 47,377 appointments
- UPSSSC: 53,011 appointments

Skill Development

- Expansion of training, employability and entrepreneurship programmes for youth

Gunmen kill 2 Kuki church men, torch Manipur village

Suo Motu Case Filed, Investigators Yet To Identify Assaulters

Donald Sairem | TNN

Imphal: Gunmen armed with sophisticated weapons killed two Kuki Baptist Church functionaries, wounded two others and torched a church and several houses in a Kuki village in Manipur's Kamjong district before dawn Thursday, in an attack feared to be linked to mounting tensions after mutilated bodies of six Naga men held hostage since May were found.

Police said attackers entered Kultuh village around 4.30am and opened indiscriminate fire on residents before the arson attack. A suo motu case has been registered, but investigators have yet to identify those behind the assault.

Those killed were identified as Letminlun Haokip, 35, head deacon of Kuki Baptist Church in Kultuh bordering Myanmar, and Lunminthang Haokip, 23, youth chairman of the church.

ANI

Scattered remains of NPF Manipur HQ at Liangmai Taphou was burnt down, in Senapati on Thursday, reportedly in a protest over the death of six Naga individuals who were allegedly abducted on May 1

Violence followed a spiralling cycle of abductions and killings that began May 13, hours after three members of Thadou Baptist Association India were gunned down in an ambush in Kangpokpi district. More than 50 people from rival communities were abducted that day.

Most were released on May 14, but six Naga men and 14 Kukis remained captive. Naga groups released 14 Kuki hostages on June 9, expecting a reciprocal move. Tensions exploded after bodies of six Naga captives, including 2 pastors, were found Wednesday.

Eastern Kuki Chiefs' Association alleged cadres of Eastern Flank, a Myanmar-based breakaway faction of NSCN (IM), and Myanmar's pro-junta Shanni National Army carried out Thursday's attack.

"Attackers mercilessly set fire to seven houses, including the village church... EKCA views this attack as a grave violation of human rights and an assault on peace and security of innocent villagers," the association said.

Kuki Baptist Convention condemned what it called an act of terrorism against KBC Church, Kultuh. "The two deceased were esteemed and faithful leaders of the church," it said. Anger over recovery of the six bodies sparked protests across Naga-majority areas. Youths vandalised the office of BJP ally Naga People's Front in Senapati district.

Entire NE, barring one or 2 states, may be out of AFSPA by next year: Amit Shah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Home minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the entire northeast region, barring one or two states, may be out of purview of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act by next year.

Speaking at the signing of a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) among the Centre, Govt of Assam and Govt of Nagaland for oil and mineral exploration along Assam-Nagaland border, Shah lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to establish lasting peace and push development in the north-east, saying that a dozen peace pacts have been signed since 2019, with violent incidents down 80% and the total area under AFSPA too shrinking by 80%.

"With just one MoU, the extraction capacity of 1,000-1,500 barrels per day can be increased by 10 times," Shah said and added that the possibilities of recovery could exceed Rs 15,000 crore in one field alone.

Drunk driver runs car over three children in TN

Trichy: Three students of a govt school, all aged around 12, were crushed to death when a drunk driver allegedly crashed his speeding car into them. A fourth student was injured in the accident that occurred near Mannargudi in TN's Tiruvarur district. Police arrested the driver, K Ulaganathan (51), and said he was inebriated at the time of the accident. CM C Joseph Vijay condoled the tragedy and announced Rs 3 lakh compensation for the next of kin. TNN

30001/37/2627

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001,Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

OMC ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. Mining Happiness

Short Notice for sale of Manganese Ore

The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd intends to sell various grades of Manganese Ore produced from Dubna-Sakradihi Iron and Manganese Mines of Barbil Region in Keonjhar District, Odisha through National e-Auction which will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. The eauction shall be held from **11.00A.M to 2.00 P.M on 19.06.2026.**

The National e-Auction for sale of Manganese Ore will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. in MSTC Portal i.e. **www.mstcecommerce.com** very shortly.

For details, please visit the website of OMC Ltd. i.e. **omcltd.in**

OIPR-30001/30005/1/26-27/0034

Chief General Manager (S&M)

37001/21/2627

ODISHA THINK INDIA. THINK ODISHA

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar, 751014
Phone: (0674) 243 2177
Website: www.odishatourism.gov.in
www.dot.odisha.gov.in

No. 8947 TSM, Bhubaneswar, dt.10.06.2026
TCT-TSP-FEST-0003-2023

INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT
APPLICATION FOR 37TH KONARK FESTIVAL
(1st to 5th December 2026)
Open Air Auditorium, Konark, Odisha, India

Tourism Department, Government of Odisha invites online applications separately from eligible Troupe / Institute / Organisation to perform in the Indian Classical Dance forms i.e. Odissi, Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi and Sattriya for the **37th Konark Festival** scheduled to be held from **1st to 5th December 2026**.

For detailed information, interested Troupe / Institute / Organisation are requested to visit online application portal **www.odishatourism.gov.in** which shall remain open from the **12th June 2026 to 15th July 2026.**

Sd/-
(Biswajit Routray)
Additional Director
OIPR-37001/37001/1/26-27/0005

MEA: 2 out of 3 vessels subject to sanctions

▶ Continued from page 1

Later, Mukesh Mangal, additional secretary in the shipping ministry, said all the remaining 25 crew members of the Settebello — 21 Indians, two Pakistani, one Russian and one Ukrainian — have been safely evacuated. He added that Seamen Welfare Fund Society has been asked to pay Rs 10 lakh to the family of each deceased.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said two of the three vessels that came under attack were subject to sanctions administered by the US treasury's office of foreign assets control, while the Settebello had been classified as non-compliant. OFAC acts against vessels involved in violating US sanctions on the sale of Iranian and Russian oil.

Following the attack on the Settebello on Wednesday, MEA had summoned US charge d'affaires Jason Meeks and he was handed a demarche, or diplomatic note of protest. Responding to another question on the number of India seafarers in the Gulf, Mangal said more than 18,000 Indian seafarers remained in the West Asia region, 329 on vessels on the west of Strait of Hormuz and 233 on vessels in Gulf of Oman.

Bombs team: Projectile breached vessel's hull

PTI

Indian Navy's EOD team successfully extracted an unexploded missile warhead lodged inside a fuel tank of Marshall Islands-flagged crude oil tanker MT Olympic Life

▶ Continued from page 1

On receiving the information, the Navy initiated a coordinated response. Kochi-based Southern Naval Command deployed a specialist explosive ordnance disposal team for detailed assessment, the ministry said. The team confirmed that a projectile had penetrated the vessel's hull, traversed multiple structural compartments and was lodged inside the fuel tank, it said. The EOD team employed advanced diagnostic methods to identify and isolate the detonation mechanism before carrying out the safe extraction of the warhead along with associated debris. The recovered ordnance has been transported to a secure facility for safe stowage and detailed examination, the Navy said.

After the removal of the warhead, the tanker safely arrived at Kochi port on Wednesday, and is currently docked there. All crew members and the tanker are safe.

The ministry said Navy's prompt response, to an emergency at sea, irrespective of the nationality of the crew or the ownership of MT Olympic Life, reaffirms its role as a responsible maritime force dedicated to global maritime safety and a trusted and preferred security partner in the region.

India has enough fertiliser stock for Kharif season

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India has enough fertiliser stock to comfortably to meet the demand for the ongoing Kharif season, and subsidy estimates for the current fiscal could be revised downwards considering the recent sharp decline in global urea prices, govt said on Thursday.

The developments could effect lower subsidy payouts against around Rs 3.8 lakh crore for 2026-27, reducing pressure on the exchequer as well as securing stocks through imports for the Rabi season, even as supply chains remain disrupted due to the West Asia conflict.

Responding to a question on whether subsidy estimates for financial year 27 would be reassessed, Aparna S Sharma, additional secretary in fertiliser department, said preliminary subsidy estimate was based on presumption that the trend remains the same.

State-owned National Fertilisers Ltd, which recently floated a tender to import 17 lakh tonnes of urea, has received bids for more than 60 lakh tonnes with the lowest rate of about $445 per tonne from global trading companies.

Bengal police, HAM volunteers reunite missing UP woman with kin

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: Nearly five months after vanishing amid severe psychological trauma, a 30-year-old Uttar Pradesh woman is finally set to reunite with her family, thanks to a remarkable collaboration between Bengal's Habra Police and HAM radio volunteers.

Meenakshi Chaurasia, also known as Usha Devi, was found wandering on the streets of Habra in North 24-Parganas district. Disoriented and unable to provide coherent details about her identity or home, she was rescued by police and placed under medical care at a shelter home run by Habra municipality. For weeks, officers struggled to trace her origins. Conventional methods yielded no leads, prompting Habra Police to seek assistance from West Bengal Radio Club. Since the woman spoke only Hindi, HAM radio operators activated contacts across Hindi-speaking regions, circulating the few clues available through amateur radio networks. After seven days of coordinated outreach, the breakthrough came — her family was located in Bansiyari village in UP. The decisive moment came during a video call arranged by HAM radio volunteers, where she recognised her brothers, identified her sons by name, even as she could not recall her address.

Rajo Devi, now 68, has been reunited with her sons after over a decade

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER: CIVIL DIVISION NO.I, I&FC DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI: BASAIDARAPUR OFFICE COMPLEX, OPP. ESI HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI-110027
PH:- 011-25414582: email: ifccdi@gmail.com

No. EE/CD-I/DB-44/Bio mining/2026/601 **Dated:- 10/6/26**

The Office of the Executive Engineer, Civil Division-I, Irrigation & Flood Control Department (I&FC), Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD), invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from reputed, experienced, and technically competent agencies/organizations engaged in legacy waste management, biomining, and bioremediation. The work includes management of Approximately 10,00,000 MT of silt mixed with municipal waste in ecologically sustainable and scientifically proven latest technologies for handling processing, scientific disposal and further utilization of silt.

The EOI documents and details can be downloaded from website **https://ifc.delhi.gov.in/**

Qualified firms with adequate resources, experience and track record interested in the project are requested to submit their respective Expression of Interest (EOI) before 3.00 PM on 15 June 2026

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0106/26-27

TIMES ascent www.timesascent.com
Catapult your career

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY JAMMU
Advt. No. IIT Jammu/01/2026
(Direct Recruitment/ Deputation)
Employment Notification

ONLINE Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for filling up various Non-Teaching positions at IIT Jammu. For further details / information regarding qualification, experience, general instructions and submission of online application etc., **please visit Institute website https://www.iitjammu.ac.in/.** Last date for submission of applications only through online

Sd/-
Registrar

EdCIL (India) Limited
(A Govt. of India Mini Ratna Category-I CPSE under Ministry of Education)

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS IN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA ON CONTRACT BASIS

1. On behalf of Airports Authority of India (AAI), EdCIL (India) Limited invites applications from competent professionals for various contractual positions in AAI at New Delhi under following Advertisement Numbers:

Sl. No.	Advertisement Number	Directorate
(1)	Advt. No.02/2026/CHQ/CN	Security Directorate
(2)	Advt. No.04/2026/CHQ/CN	Planning Directorate
(3)	Advt. No.06/2026/CHQ/CN	Pension Cell, HRM Directorate
(4)	Advt. No.07/2026/CHQ/CN	Strategic Initiatives Unit (SIU) Directorate
(5)	Advt. No.08/2026/CHQ/CN	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Directorate

2. Applications will be accepted through online mode only. For more detailed information viz. Online Application, Eligibility Criteria, Consultancy Fees, Experience, etc., please visit website(s): **www.aai.aero** AND **www.edcilindia.co.in**
3. Any corrigendum/addendum and further information shall be published on the referred website only.
4. The Online Application will start from **12.06.2026 (10:00 HRS.)** and will be closed on **28.06.2026 (23:55 HRS.).**

WE ARE HIRING
VIVEKA HOSPITALS Health First

Viveka Hospitals is hiring experienced medical professionals for following positions (Part Time / Full Time) :

GASTROENTEROLOGIST
DrNB / DM Gastroenterology / Hepatology having 0 - 3 yrs of relevant experience.

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MD / DMRD / DNB in Radiology having 1 - 5 yrs of relevant experience.

To apply, mail a copy of CV to
admin@vivekahospitals.com or contact 8238055595

ANUP

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INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: Plate A & B, 5th Floor, Office Block 2, NBCC Towers, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi - 110023 | CIN No. U67190DL2006GOI144520

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER (CCOM) IN IIFCL

IIFCL was set up in 2006 to provide long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects. It has the mandate to finance both green-field and brown-field projects across all infrastructure sub-sectors as notified by the Government and broadly include transportation, energy, water, sanitation, communication, social and commercial infrastructure. IIFCL invites applications for below post:

S No.	Post	Mode of recruitment	Vacancies
1.	Chief Compliance Officer (CCOM)	Contract Basis	01

For detailed advertisement, please visit our Website **https://www.iifcl.in** (Recruitment section)

Last date for receipt of application is **10th July 2026** (including abroad and remote areas of India).

Sd/-
Head of Department (HOD)–HCMD

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Advt. No.: 08/26

NTPC Limited is India's largest power conglomerate with an installed capacity of 90.8 GW. Commensurate with our country's growth challenges, NTPC has embarked upon an ambitious plan to attain a total installed capacity of 149 GW by 2032.

To fuel its ambitious growth plans, NTPC is looking for **experienced professionals on fixed term basis**. Details are as under:

Discipline	Vacancies
Material & Supply Chain Management	01
Green Chemical	01
Regulatory Affairs - Nuclear	01
Engineering - Nuclear	01

Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website **careers.ntpc.co.in** or visit careers section at **www.ntpc.co.in** for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, qualification criteria, experience criteria, full text of the advertisement and for applying. Only online mode of application will be accepted. **The online application portal will remain open from 12.06.2026 to 26.06.2026**. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will be published only on our website.

Leading the Power Sector

As on 20.05.2026

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
PROGRAMME OF EXAMINATIONS/RECRUITMENT TESTS (RTs) - 2027

Sl. No.	Name of Examination	Date of Notification	Last Date for receipt of Applications	Date of commencement of Exam	Duration of Exam
1.	**Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination**			**09.01.2027 (Saturday)**	**2 Days**
2.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Preliminary) Examination, 2027	02.09.2026	22.09.2026	10.01.2027 (Sunday)	1 DAY
3.	Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2027	16.09.2026	06.10.2026	31.01.2027 (Sunday)	1 DAY
4.	CBI (DSP) LDCE	16.12.2026	05.01.2027	27.02.2027 (Saturday)	2 DAY
5.	**Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination**			**13.03.2027 (Saturday)**	**2 Days**
6.	CISF AC(EXE) LDCE-2027	25.11.2026	15.12.2026	14.03.2027 (Sunday)	1 DAY
7.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (I), 2027	02.12.2026	22.12.2026	11.04.2027 (Sunday)	1 DAY
8.	C.D.S. Examination (I), 2027				
9.	Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2027	13.01.2027	02.02.2027	23.05.2027 (Sunday)	1 DAY
10.	Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2027 through CS(P) Examination 2027				
11.	**Reserved for UPSC Examination**			**05.06.2027 (Saturday)**	**2 DAYS**
12.	Engineering Services (Main) Examination, 2027			18.06.2027 (Friday)	1 DAY
13.	I.E.S./I.S.S. Examination, 2027	10.02.2027	02.03.2027	18.06.2027 (Friday)	3 DAYS
14.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Main) Examination, 2027			19.06.2027 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
15.	Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2027	17.02.2027	09.03.2027	04.07.2027 (Sunday)	1 DAY
16.	Combined Medical Services Examination, 2027	03.03.2027	23.03.2027	18.07.2027 (Sunday)	1 DAY
17.	**Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination**			**31.07.2027 (Saturday)**	**2 DAYS**
18.	**Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination**			**07.08.2027 (Saturday)**	**2 DAYS**
19.	Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2027			20.08.2027 (Friday)	5 DAYS
20.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (II), 2027	12.05.2027	01.06.2027	19.09.2027 (Sunday)	1 DAY
21.	C.D.S. Examination (II), 2027				
22.	**Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination**			**25.09.2027 (Saturday)**	**2 DAYS**
23.	**Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination**			**16.10.2027 (Saturday)**	**2 DAYS**
24.	**Reserved for UPSC Examination,**			**23.10.2027 (Saturday)**	**2 DAYS**
25.	Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2027			21.11.2027 (Sunday)	7 DAYS
26.	**Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination**			**04.12.2027 (Saturday)**	**2 DAYS**
27.	S.O./Steno (GD-B/GD-I) LDCE	15.09.2027	05.10.2027	18.12.2027 (Saturday)	2 DAYS

Note: The dates of notification, commencement and duration of Examinations/ RTs are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.

CBC 55101/14/0001/2627

AKIC IMC Agra Prayagraj Limited

UPSIDA Complex, A-1/4, Lakhanpur, Kanpur

E-tender Notice

It is hereby notified that e-tenders are invited from sole proprietorship firm/a partnership firm/a limited liability partnership/ a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 (or the Companies Act, 2013) working in Government Departments / Public Sector Undertakings/ Corporations/ Authorities/Councils/ Municipal Bodies for Development /Maintenance /Upgradation works under AKIC IMC Agra Prayagraj Limited, the deadline of uploading of which is as follows -

The tender for the mentioned work can be uploaded from 12-06-2026 at 11:00 AM to 19-06-2026 at 05:00 PM, which will be opened on 19-06-2026 at 05:30 PM.

Only Original copies of Power of Attorney, Bank Guarantee, affidavits shall be submitted by the Bidders to the office by the date mentioned in the tender forms. The Details of tenders invited e-tendering are as follows.

S.no.	Name of Work	Cost of Work Rs.(in Crores)
1	RFQ-cum-RFP for Programme Manager for New Cities (PMNC) for Integrated Manufacturing Clusters (IMC) at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh Under Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC) Project.	4.39

Detailed information regarding the tender can be seen on the e-link located on the Authority's website: www.onlineupsidc.com and UPLC's website: https://etender.up.nic.in. For other information, the Asst. Manager (Civil) Mr. Deepak Sonkar can be contacted on mobile no. 9044197166.

Director, AKIC IMC Agra Prayagraj Limited

Advertisement No.**65/2026**

Government of India

Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of

Chairman & Managing Director

in

Konkan Railway Corporation Limited

Last date of submission of application by the applicant is by 15:00 hours on

26th June, 2026

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by 17:00 hours on

06th July, 2026

For details login to website

https://www.pesb.gov.in

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER

The following **e-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in**. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply**. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information, if any, Dy. CMM/M-II/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340708 or AMM/M, 9163340706 (For Notice No. A to D) & Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or AMM/HQ-II, 9163340724 (For Notice No. E). **Office Address:** Office of The PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan.

[A] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 09/06/2026. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 75264023. Brief Description of Item: Head Stock Assly. for WAG-9HC Loco as per Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/154, Alt.-3 or latest. (Set details attached). **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 434.00 Set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 20,00,000.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 17/07/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

[B] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 09/06/2026. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 75264088. Brief Description of Item: Windows for WAG-9HC Loco, as per Drg./Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/014, Alt.-6, Category No. R/9/0017 [Each set consisting of items as per set details attached]. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 323.00 Set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 3,81,070.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 17/07/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

[C] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 09/06/2026. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 75264032. Brief Description of Item: Roof Assly. Complete for WAG-9HC Loco. As per Spec. No. CLW/MS/3/154, Alt.-3 or latest, Cat. No. R/9/0081. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 328.00 Set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 20,00,000.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 01/08/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

[D] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 09/06/2026. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 75264080. Brief Description of Item: M/C Room Door for WAG-9HC as per CLW's Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/013, Alt.-6, Category No. R/9/0090. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 347.00 Set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 4,05,290.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 07/07/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

[E] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 09/06/2026. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows : **[1]; 70260091**; Bull Gear 107 Teeth for WAG-9HC as per Drg. No. SK-DP-3848, Alt.-1 and Spec. No. MP. 0.2800.19 (Rev. 01) June 2019. **[Warranty Period:** 72 Months after the date of delivery]; **4245.00 Numbers; ₹ 50,00,000.00; 01/07/2026 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 70260084**; Gear Case complete as per Specn. 1209-01.013-014, Alt.-9. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **5170.00 Numbers**; 20,00,000.00; **08/07/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

[PR4/372] **PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan**

Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh had invited objections/ suggestions from the residents/public regarding the proposed feeding points at Sukhna Lake vide Public Notice issued 19.05.2026.

The proposed feeding points are as under :-

1. Next to the Police Beat Box at the beginning of the lake.
2. Next to the Observation Tower.
3. At the top of Step No. 1 — Upper Section.
4. At the top of Step No. 2.
5. Below Step No. 3.
6. Above Step No. 7.
7. Near the Peepal Tree.
8. Next to the Parking Area, away from the Buddha Statue.

Whereas, a period of 15 days was provided to the general public for submission of objections / suggestions and no objection / suggestion has been received within the stipulated period.

Therefore, the above-mentioned feeding points are hereby treated as final approved feeding points for feeding of community animals at Sukhna Lake area.

The general public is requested to cooperate and use only the above designated feeding points.

Medical Officer of Health
Municipal Corporation Chandigarh

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Parisara Bhavana, No.49, Church Street, Bangalore-560001
Phone : 080-25581383, Fax : 080-25586321

No. PCB/86/BLD/2025/2026-27/623 Dated: 21/05/2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER - CALL-1

(Through GOK e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** by The Member Secretary for the following work:

Name of the work: AMC for Electrical installation at Regional office building/laboratory at Raichur (1 Year). Approx Value of the work: **Rs.8.39 lakhs**. All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement website: http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in,

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/1111/AKAR/2026-27 **CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER-2**

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

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Government of Karnataka

Public Works Department, Special Division, Hunsur

Tender Notification

(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

IFT No:07/2026-27 Date: 10.06.2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the under signed has invited itemwised tender for 1-work related to Hunsur Special Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through KPP Portal. Amount put to tender Rs.293.60 lakhs, EMD amount of Rs. 4,40,400/-.Tender documents is downloaded from the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website from Dt: 10-06-2026 and Last date for submission of filled tender documents is Dt: 10-07-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): is 4-Months For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours.

Note: 1) The employer reserves the rights to Reject or Accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. **2)** Tender extension/Addendum/Corrigendum etc, will be notified only in KPP Portal and will not be published in news papers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Special Division, Hunsur.

DIPR/DDMYS/296/KSMCA/205/2026-27

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No.: AGC-EL-C-T-01-2026-27 Date: 09.06.2026

TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Const.), North Central Railway, Agra for and behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Tender No.:- AGC-EL-C-T-01-2026-27

Name of work with its location:- Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of OHE Electrification Bateshwar (BASR) coversion of 'D' class station into 'B' Station in Agra Division of N.C. Railway.

Approx.Cost of the work:-Rs.2,39,81,603.24 | **Bid Security:-**4,79,600.00

Completion Period:- 06 Months from the date of issue of acceptance letter including monsoon period.

Tender closing date & time:- 01.07.2026 up to 15:00 hrs.

Validity of offer:- 60 days from the date of tender opening.

Tenderers can only submit their offer through web portal **www.ireps.gov.in** up to **15:00 hrs** on **01.07.2026**. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**. **1315/26(ADM)**

North central railways | @ CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

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BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Zilla Panchayat Building, 1st Floor, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/03/2026-27
Dated: 10-06-2026

KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the Goods Approved Under EAP Support Activity Head of Grants for the year 2026-27. Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 25-06-2026 upto 4.00 PM.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1107/ Adverto/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.08/2026.27, Dated: 10.06.2026

Tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Chikkamagalur Districts works as per KW-3, maximum tender amount is Rs.80.65 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.80.26 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 19-06-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/224/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

Deputy Commissioner Office, Kolar District, Kolar

(District urban Development cell, Kolar)

E-mail: ka.kolar.dudc@gmail.com, phone & Fax no: 08152-243555

No.DUDC/TECH/CR/34/2026-27 DATED: 08.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(as per the conditions of the Standard Tender Document E-Procurement Tender Notification)

Kolar District ULB's Tender through Karnataka Procurement Portal as per the GO. No.FD/06/PCL/2006, Bangalore from the Registered, Eligible Contractors. For details visit **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The Indent Numbers details below. Any addendums will be notified through Karnataka Procurement portal only. **Work Indent No:DMA/2026-27/IND6208/CALL-2** Manufacturing, Supplying and Fixing of Dr. BR Ambedkar statue (Approximtely 3500 Kgs) 21 Feet 9 Inches Height x 7 Feet 6 inches width x6 feet side In Deputy Commissioner Office Kolar. **Amount put to tender Rs:98.00 lakhs.** Tender last date and Bid Opening date should be seen in KPPP Portal Website.

Sd/- Project Director
District Urban Development Cell, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.No.108/KSMC&A/2026-27

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORT CORPORATION LTD.

(A JV of Govt. of India and participating State Governments)

E-TENDER NOTICE

Bid No. DM/MS/CPM-GZ/312 Tender ID: 2026_NCRTC_280239_1

Online Bids are invited for Construction of Skywalk with travelators at Anand Vihar multimodal hub for connecting Anand Vihar Railway Station to ISBT, Kuashambi with integrated access to Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat corridor and DMRC line 3 & Line 4 at Anand Vihar including an FOB between paid to paid areas of Anand Vihar Namo Bharat station and DMRC Anand Vihar Station.

For detailed information and subsequent addendum/corrigendum (if any), please visit NCRTC website **www.ncrtc.in** or CPP Portal **www.etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** from **12.06.2026 to 13.07.2026 (upto 1500 hrs)**.

Sd/-, CPM/GZB

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.

D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065, E-Mail-edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in

Ref. No.:- F.8( )/RMSCL/EPM/NIB-947/2026/290 Dated :- 10/06/2026

Corrigendum / Addendum

Bid for item Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 07.07.2026 : 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the Corrigendum / Addendum may be visited on Procurement portal website **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or **www.dipronline.org** or **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or website **http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in.**

UBN : MSC2627GLOB00016

Executive Director (EPM)
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4627 Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No:-JHS/Comm/e-Auction /26/149 **Dated:** 09.06.2026

E-Auction Notice

On behalf of The President of India, The Divisional Railway Manager, (Commercial), Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under:-

Cat.: Parcel	**Catalogue No.:**JHS-SLR-03
Asset Details	
01.Train number 11086 01 SLR-F-I	
Auction Start : 24.06.26 at 12:00 hrs	
Auction End : 24.06.26 at 12:30 hrs	

Note: Prospective bidder is requested to visit e-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website **(www.ireps.gov.in)**. The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. **1317/26(DG)**

North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 03/2027/SBC Dated: 05-06-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender.No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
L8265988	Digital Radiography System with CAMC Condition Qty-01 No.	29-06-2026 10:30 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/199/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

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Government of Rajasthan

Commissionerate of Agriculture
Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur
(Email ID: jdagr.pmfhy@rajasthan. gov.in)

F6(III)/CAg./CI/StopGap Arrangement under WINDS 2025-26/20()/2042 Dated : 01.06. 2026

NOTICE INVIITING BIDS

Bids for Weather Data Service at Girdawar Circle Level in Rajasthan with an estimated cost of Rs. 14.18 Crore for weather data covering the period from 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2026 are invited from empanelled firms by the WINDS Committee, Government of India up to 06:00 PM 22.06.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the state procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) and the departmental website (https://agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in). UBN AGR2627SLOB00154

Commissioner
DIPR/C/10054/2026 **Department of Agriculture, Rajasthan**

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, BYADGI.

Landline No: 08375-228443 E-mail: apmcbyadgi@gmail.com

Sl.No / DAM / APMC / B / AAP / 185/ 2025-26 Date : 08-06-2026

E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department under the Standard Tendering Document KPPP portal (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) for the following three works under the Annual Action Plan for the year 2025-26.

SL NO	INDENT NO	TENDER AMOUNT
1	APMC/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT958	**2,79,70,915-00**
2	APMC/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT955	**1,24,14,985-00**
3	APMC/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT954	**91,81,759-00**

Date of pre-bid meeting& tender dispute settlementis: **24-06-2026, at 11.00 AM,** Last date for submission of tender is : **15-07-2026 up to 05.00 PM,** Date of opening of technical bid is: **17-07-2026 at 11.00 AM** and if possible financial bid will be opened on date: **21-07-2026 at 11.00 AM.** Tender terms and conditions or more information can be obtained from the office during office working hours except on public holidays or on the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website. **18% GST** will be charged separately for the above works. The committee reserves the right to accept or reject the tender.

Sd/- Secretary APMC Byadgi | **Sd/- Administrator APMC Byadgi**

DIPR/HAVERI/153/2026-27/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Office - Chief Engineer, Nagar Nigam Prayagraj

Notice Inviting Tender (Second Time)

Prayagraj Municipal Corporation (PMC) invites tenders from interested entities for Design, Build, Equip, Operate, Maintain and Transfer a 200-Bedded Super Specialty Hospital at Naini, Prayagraj

Instructions:

- The detailed Request for Proposal document can be downloaded from **www.etender.up.nic.in.**
- To clarify the queries and take suggestions of the Bidders, a pre-bid meeting is scheduled on date and time specified in Date Sheet at office of Chief Engineer, Prayagraj Municipal Corporation, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh - 211001
- Duly completed proposal along with other prerequisites/documents in support of eligibility criteria etc. and information as per formats given in RFP must be submitted **ONLINE** latest by date and time as specified in the Date sheet below. For details, please refer to the RFP document.
- Bidders are advised to follow the instructions provided in the "Instructions to the Bidders" for the submission of the bids online as per Clause 2 of RFP document. Bid documents may be scanned with 100 dpi with black and white option which helps in reducing size of the scanned document.
- Bidders shall not tamper/modify forms of this RFP. In case if the same is found to be tempered/ modified in any manner, tender will be completely rejected and EMD would be forfeited, and Bidder is liable to be banned from doing business with Prayagraj Municipal Corporation.
- Interested Bidders are advised to visit **www.etender.up.nic.in;** regularly till closing date of submission of RFP for any corrigendum / addendum/ amendment

1. Data Sheet

	Head	Details
1.	Name, Designation and address of officer in-charge of receiving the bids	**Request for Proposal for "Design, Build, Equip, Operate, Maintain and Transfer a 200-Bedded Super Specialty Hospital at Naini, Prayagraj"** **Contact Person:** Executive Engineer, Prayagraj Municipal Corporation **Contact number:** 06393557915 **For queries related to tender document:** 8303701195 **E-mail: osnagarnigam@rediffmail.com** Address: Prayagraj Municipal Corporation, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Civil Lines, Uttar Pradesh - 211001
2.	Allotment method	NPV of the Annual Concession Fee quoted by the Bidder and the milestone linked payments made by the Authority
3.	Availability of bid document	Downloadable from the UP-tender website **etender.up.nic.in**
4.	Bid Processing Fee	INR 10,000/- through EMD portal as per mentioned in Tender Notice.
5.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/ Bid Security	Refundable amount of INR 3,00,00,000/- (Three Crores only) to be submitted as per Clause 1.2.4 of the RFP.
6.	Period	The Authority will hand over the Project Site for a period of 27 years. ("Concession Period") (inclusive of 2 years for construction), after which it will be returned to the Authority in operational condition
7.	Financial bid	The tender will be two bids system. The financial bid to be submitted through e- tender portal.
8.	Schedule of Bidding Process	
	Task	Key Dates
	Bid upload date/time	11-06-2026 (16:00 PM)
	Bid start date/time	11-06-2026 (16:00 PM)
	Last date of receiving queries	17-06-2026 (16:00 PM)
	Pre-bid meeting date	24-06-2026 (12:00 PM)
	Bid Due Date (PDD)	25-07-2026 (16:00 PM)
	Opening of Technical bid	25-07-2026 (17:00 PM)
	Validity of bids	120 days from Bid Due Date
	Issuance of LOI	To be communicated
	Signing of the Lease Agreement	To be communicated
9.	Bank Account details	**For EMD/ Bid Security,** Bank Name: IndusInd Bank, Account No: 100116210062 IFSC Code: INDB0000124 **For Bid Processing Fee (Tender Cost),** Bank Name: IndusInd Bank Account No: 100116210130 IFSC Code: INDB0000124
10.	Proposal Submission Type	Soft Copy
11.	Proposal Language	English
12.	Proposal Currency	INR
13.	Validity of Bids	120 days from Bid Due Date
14.	Sub leasing/ subletting	Not allowed
15.	Joint Venture (JV)	Allowed as per terms of the RFP
16.	Location of pre bid meeting	Agency's may confirm their participation in the pre-bid meeting by sending email with Subject: "Pre-Bid queries for **Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer a 200-Bedded Super Specialty Hospital at Naini, Prayagraj** to **osnagarnigam@rediffmail.com** Hybrid Mode **Online Meeting Link: Microsoft Teams meeting** **Join:** **https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/268328618549693?p=ZM3ScEloyTZNTvvwPd** Meeting ID: 268 328 618 549 693, Passcode: w9X87wg2

Sd/- **Chief Engineer**
Nagar Nigam Prayagraj

25001/376/2627 e-mail: serw_ctc@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

No. Tender Online RWC - 07/26 Letter No.- Date :

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. **Name of the work** : Construction of **Road & Bridge** works.
2. **Class of contractor**
   a) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore : Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
   b) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore : A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
   c) Estimated cost more than Rs. 20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
3. **Time for Completion** : As specified in the **Column-7 of the Annexure.**
4. **Detail Projects** : **As per Annexure attached**
5. **Other Details:**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RWC- 07/ 26	10.06.2026 at 11.30 A.M.	24.06.2026 upto 05.00 P.M.	24.06.2026 upto 02.00 P.M.	25.06.2026 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack
OIPR-25001/25097/1/26-27/0006

12001/43/2627

THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 22
Ph: 0674-2541545, 2542921
E-mail: ophwc.od@od.gov.in, Website: www.ophwc.com

e-procurement notice No.- 06/OPHWC/2026-27

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The **Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC)**, Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover system in **ONLINE MODE** only, for the works as detailed below:

1	Nature of work	**Building works**
2	No. of Works	**03 Nos.**
3	Value of Tender	**Rs. 10.04 Cr. to Rs. 36.49 Cr.**
4	Class of Contractor	**'A' Class to 'Super' Class**
5	Cost of Bid document (To be paid online)	**Rs. 11,800.00**
6	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	**Dt. 12.06.2026 to Dt. 02.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M**
7	Last date /time of Receipt of Bids in the Portal	**Dt. 02.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M**
8	Date of Opening Bid	**Dt. 03.07.2026 at 10.30 A.M**
9	Date of Technical Presentation (among qualified bidders only)	**Date & Time will be notified after opening of the Technical Bid.**
10	* The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can also be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender shall not be published in Newspaper and can only be seen in the said website. * The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and terminate the tender process without assigning any reason thereof.	

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
(OSPH&WC)

N.B. - The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T. as applicable Under works contract.

OIPR-12001/12025/1/26-27/0006

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Sealed proposals are invited for **"Selection of System Integrator for Development of Geoportal, Delivery of Satellite Imagery and Cloud Service"** in conformity with the Terms & Conditions of the Detailed RFP in single bid two-part bidding system (Part-I: General Eligibility & Technical Proposal and Part-II: Financial Proposal) from intending bidders fulfilling the terms of eligibility laid down in the RFP document. Please refer to **Website: etender.up.nic.in** for complete details and downloading the Document. The RFP document shall be available from **12. 06. 2026**. The last date of submission of bid is **18. 07. 2026** till **5:00 PM.**

Sd/-
Executive Director, Awas Bandhu

AWAS BANDHU, UTTAR PRADESH
HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
1ST FLOOR, JANPATH MARKET, HAZRATGANJ, LUCKNOW-226001
E-MAIL: awasbandhu@gmail.com

25001/381/2627 By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID : serwcbaripada@gmail.com, Ph-No-06792-261343/261344
Gangraj, Baripada

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Works

Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge N.C.B. No. 416 for 2026-27
Letter No. 3099/ Date. 06.06.2026 //

1. Name of the work : Bridge works under SBY in the District of Mayurbhanj
2. Total No. of work : **03** Nos (Three)
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs. 564.29 lakhs to Rs. 826.53 lakhs** (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : **As per annexure.**
5. Period of Completion : As per annexure.
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Bridge On-line N.C.B. No. **416**	Dt. 20.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 06.07.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 04.07.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 07.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- **Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.**
- **Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.**

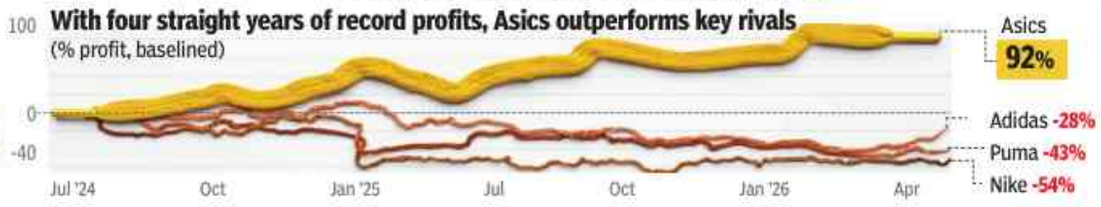
Sd/- **Er. A.K Naik**
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. Circle, Baripada
OIPR - 25001/25130/1/26-27/0016

TIMES BUSINESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026

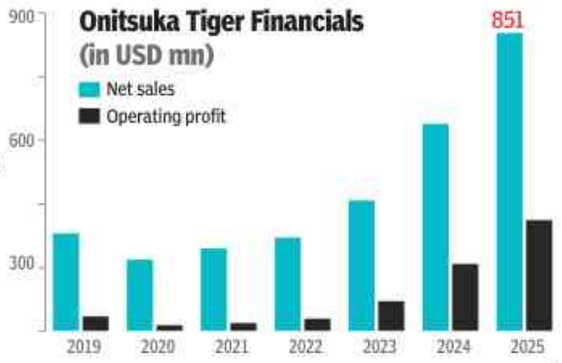
Japanese footwear and athletic brand Asics' high-end Onitsuka Tiger business has seen sales soar through the roof

A fierce competitor to brands like Nike, Adidas and Puma, the company's shares have jumped almost sevenfold over past five years, taking its market value to about $20 bn

Source: Reuters



Asics is now spinning off its Onitsuka Tiger business, transferring it to OT group, a wholly-owned subsidiary via company split effective Jan 1, '27



Credit surges 17.7% as deposit slowdown widens funding gap

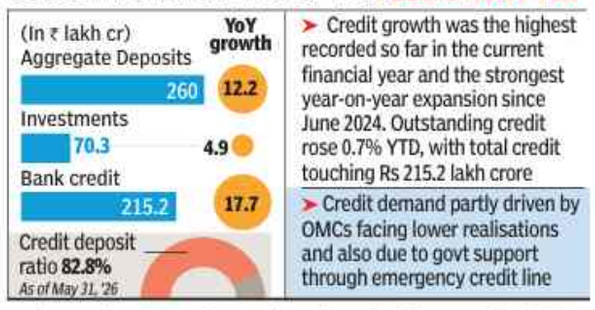
Divergence Results In Wedge Of ₹3.8L Cr In April And May

Mayur.Shetty
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Credit growth surged to a high even as deposits shrank in the first two months of FY27, widening the funding gap and pushing banks deeper into a liquidity squeeze, with the wedge between loans and deposits reaching about Rs 3.8 lakh crore by May 31.

Credit growth stood at 17.7% for the fortnight ending May 31, 2026, the highest recorded so far in the current financial year and the strongest year-on-year expansion since June 2024. Outstanding bank credit rose by Rs 1.5 lakh crore since March 31, 2026, marking a 0.7% increase (year-to-date), with total credit touching Rs 215.2 lakh crore. Bankers said demand is being driven partly by oil marketing companies facing lower realisations after the surge in crude prices. They added that govt support through the emergency credit line guarantee scheme has also lifted credit offtake.

OUTSTANDING CREDIT UP BY ₹1.5L CR IN FY27



- Credit growth was the highest recorded so far in the current financial year and the strongest year-on-year expansion since June 2024. Outstanding credit rose 0.7% YTD, with total credit touching Rs 215.2 lakh crore
- Credit demand partly driven by OMCs facing lower realisations and also due to govt support through emergency credit line

Deposits, however, moved in the opposite direction. Aggregate bank deposits declined by Rs 2.3 lakh crore since March 31, 2026, a contraction of 0.9%, taking the total to Rs 260 lakh crore as of May 31, 2026. This divergence between rising credit and falling deposits has resulted in a wedge of Rs 3.8 lakh crore in just two months of the current fiscal.

For FY26 as a whole, deposits had increased by Rs 36.5 lakh crore between March 2025 and March 2026, while credit rose by Rs 31.1 lakh crore during the same period.

Deposit growth has remained inelastic, typically ranging between 9% and 13%. As of May 31, 2026, deposit growth was 12.2%, lagging credit growth by more than 500 basis points. This structural mismatch has driven the credit-deposit ratio above 80% since Oct 2025, reaching 82.8% in May 2026 after peaking at over 83% at the end of March 2026. During the pandemic liquidity glut, the ratio had fallen to a low of 69.6% in Nov 2021.

Banks have adjusted their balance sheets to fund higher credit demand. They have slowed investments in govt securities, with growth in such holdings dropping to about 2% in Jan 2026 and recovering modestly to 4.9% by May 31, 2026. This pullback reflects the need to free up liquidity amid weak deposit mobilisation. The shift marks a clear transition across banking cycles. During the pandemic phase in Sept 2020, deposit growth at 12% far exceeded credit growth of 5.3%.

No further excise on E22, higher grades ethanol/petrol

New Delhi: The Centre has exempted petrol blended with higher levels of ethanol from excise duty as it seeks to make fuel beyond E20 more attractive for consumers and push voluntary use.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) issued notifications on Wednesday, exempting ethanol blended petrol (EBP) grades E22, E25, E27 and E30, containing 22% to 30% ethanol, from applicable central excise duties, subject to excise duty having already been paid on petrol and GST having been paid on the ethanol used for blending.

"The objective is only to remove the deeming fiction under the central excise law that could otherwise result in levy of excise duty again upon the activity of blending of ethanol with petrol, thereby avoiding any incidence of double taxation," said an official.

The exemption mirrors the tax treatment available to existing ethanol-blended petrol grades such as E5, E10 and E20. TNN

Ethereal Machines raises $28.5 million

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bengaluru-based precision manufacturing startup Ethereal Machines has raised $28.5 million in a funding round led by Avataar Ventures, with participation from existing investor Peak XV Partners and others.

The company, which manufactures high-precision components for aerospace, defence, healthcare and semiconductor industries, will use the capital to expand production capacity, develop India's first indigenous CNC controller, and strengthen its presence in the US and Europe. As part of its expansion plans, Ethereal Machines will set up a 300,000 sq ft manufacturing facility on the outskirts of Bengaluru. The company said the plant is expected to generate more than 2,000 jobs and cater to global customers across aerospace, defence, medical devices, semiconductors and consumer electronics. Founded in 2014 by Kaushik Mudda and Navin Jain, Ethereal currently operates a smart factory in Bengaluru's Peenya industrial area. The company said its machining-as-a-service business has grown threefold year-on-year since its $13 million fundraise in 2024, while manufacturing capacity has expanded tenfold over the same period.

Ethereal has also developed its own CNC machines, including the Aura 3-axis platform and the Nimbus 5-axis system. "India has the engineering talent to lead the next wave of advanced manufacturing, but it needs world-class industrial capabilities to compete globally," co-founder and CEO Kaushik Mudda said.

Karnataka govt clears ₹27-cr innovation push

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Karnataka govt approved four strategic initiatives worth over Rs 27 crore to boost startups, strengthen industry-academia collaboration, expand biotechnology infrastructure and support indigenous deep-tech innovation.

The measures aim to accelerate innovation-led growth while reinforcing Karnataka's position as the country's leading technology and startup hub. "These approvals reflect Karnataka's commitment to investing across the full innovation spectrum—from startups and talent development to frontier research in biotechnology, genomics and medical robotics," said Karnataka IT and BT minister **Priyank Kharge**. "By strengthening regional innovation ecosystems, industry-academia partnerships and deep-tech research capabilities, we are creating the foundation for the next generation of jobs, enterprises and scientific breakthroughs," he added. Among the key approvals is the establishment of the K-Combinator Startup Accelerator at WrkWrk in Mangaluru in partnership with TiE Mangaluru under the Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP).

With an investment of Rs 9.2 crore over five years, the accelerator will support high-potential startups from the Udupi-Mangaluru region. The initiative is expected to deepen entrepreneurial activity in coastal Karnataka and help emerging startups scale more rapidly by connecting them with investors, industry experts and national startup networks.

Now, AI agents can decide when to strike deals using UPI mandate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Pine Labs has launched India's first agent-to-agent payment capability, enabling autonomous transactions through artificial intelligence by extending UPI's standing mandate framework to machines.

The company on Thursday introduced the Pine Labs Payment Protocol (P3P), allowing users to authorise a one-time mandate that can be delegated to an AI agent, which can then independently decide when to execute a payment based on predefined conditions and negotiations with a counter-party agent. The move removes the need for human authentication at the point of transaction, a long-standing limitation in digital payments. The launch was demonstrated in partnership with Gullak, a digital gold savings platform, where users can instruct an AI agent to purchase gold automatically when prices fall to a specified level.

Once the mandate is approved, the agent monitors price movements and completes the transaction without requiring further user intervention.

A deployment is also underway with Vijay Sales, where customers can set target prices for electronic goods and deploy AI agents to strike a deal when their target price is achieved, turning price discovery and purchase into a continuous, machine-driven process.

P3P builds on UPI's existing mandate architecture, including one-time mandates and block-and-debit frameworks, to enable what Pine Labs describes as "agentic commerce", where software agents can browse, negotiate and pay on behalf of users.

The system incorporates controls such as spending limits, identity verification and audit trails, ensuring that users retain oversight. Amrish Rau, CEO of Pine Labs, said, "the AI agent can now pay. Pine Labs Launches P3P — India's first agentic payment protocol built on UPI." With UPI already handling billions of transactions monthly, the company said the new protocol positions India at the forefront of autonomous commerce, as digital payments evolve from user-initiated actions to condition-triggered, AI-driven execution.

Opendoor shuts India ops, 250 jobs affected

Bengaluru: US digital real estate platform Opendoor is winding down its India operations, a move that will impact nearly 250 employees in the country. Chief executive officer Kaz Nejatian communicated the decision in an internal note to employees, which was later shared on social media platform X.

Nejatian said the move is part of the company's transition to a new operating model, dubbed Opendoor 2.0. "We've begun saying goodbye to our colleagues in India," Nejatian wrote, adding that the company had close to 250 employees in the country when the new model launched a few months ago. According to the company, some roles have already shifted back to the US, and the remaining operational positions are now relocating closer to its customer base. TNN

EY CEO Truncale says India key to firm's AI transformation work

Sujit John & Shilpa Phadnis | TNN

Bengaluru: Janet Truncale, global chair and CEO of EY, said the professional services firm's India operations are increasingly becoming central to its global AI strategy, with more than a quarter of its 4 lakh employees based in the country and its workforce here being among the fastest adopters of new technologies.

That importance was underlined on Thursday with Truncale launching the EY.ai Centre for Reimagination in Bengaluru, a client experience centre designed to help companies move from isolated AI pilots to full-scale business transformation. The centre is part of EY's planned $1.4 bn investment in AI.

In an exclusive interaction with TOI, Truncale said the choice of India was deliberate. "The adoption of technology by our workforce in India is like no other. They understand it because they're living it – this is a tech hub, right! And it's always been the innovation centre for us."

The centre is intended to show clients what AI can do across sectors such as retail, banking, manufacturing, healthcare and life sciences. And help them see how AI can reshape business models, operating models and customer experience. Truncale said EY is also using itself as "client zero". She said the firm has been clear that it must transform its own businesses before advising clients. The biggest example is audit. EY built a global audit platform, Canvas, a decade ago for its 160,000 clients and more than 100,000 audit professionals. It is now putting agentic AI on top of that platform.

That, she said, is not a small use case – "it's end to end". It manages workflow, it manages the accounting and auditing knowledge for everyone on the system. An auditor who earlier had to consult manuals to understand how to audit a banking allowance for loan losses can now ask an assurance agent and get guidance in real time. EY is doing similar work in tax, where its knowledge catalogue has been "agentified" by country.

Many global analysts expect such agentification to have a big impact on the talent requirements of professional services firms, including in their consulting businesses. Asked about this, Truncale said AI is changing the kind of work the employees and consultants do, but said it's in no way reducing the need for junior talent. "Every one of our businesses is relying on bringing in new skills, new perspectives, kids from college. The question is, how fast can you get them to operate at a higher level and not do the menial work. I feel very strongly that academia has to prepare folks for this new tech-enabled workforce better. Some countries and some universities get that more so than others," she said. Ajay Anand, managing partner for EY Global Delivery Services (GDS), said just in the last year, GDS hired 25,000 people, many of them from campuses.

Janet Truncale, CEO of EY, and Ajay Anand, managing partner for EY Global Delivery Services, at the new AI centre in Bengaluru on Thursday

Truncale said opportunities are also rising, and pointed to one of those. Boards, she said, are asking how they can make decisions using real data and synthetic data, how they should control agents working alongside humans. "The different types of risks and outcomes that we're going to have to assure are going to increase," she said.

Making AI investments work

We were given a tour of the new Bengaluru centre, and, in the retail section, on large digital screens, we were taken through the process of conceptualising, designing, and right up to the marketing of a shoe. The AI system has been trained on extensive EY research on shoes over the years, and public data. When a client comes, they could combine that with their own proprietary data to develop exactly what they need in hours. That level of speed and rich data can be a particular blessing for smaller players.

Anand said the centre was built to be experiential. "It's about imagining what's possible. Many of these are things we're working on with clients right now." This is becoming important because many companies have spent the past two years experimenting with AI in narrow pockets of their business. They have built use cases. They have seen productivity gains. But Truncale said CEOs are increasingly telling her that this is not enough. "Every client I talk to, they did use cases, they got some productivity, the cost of technology has increased, they're getting a lot of pressure on their bottom line and they're like, you know what, this isn't enough," she said.

The next step, she said, is end-to-end transformation. A bank should not only automate a customer query, but rethink customer experience, wealth management and risk processes together.

Anand said in banking, AI today can support self-service interfaces, virtual agents and avatar-led engagement. This could allow banks to provide personalised experiences not just to ultra-high-net-worth clients, but to much larger customer segments. In retail, he said AI can help companies move towards hyper-personalised products and respond much faster to market signals, such as a product trend going viral on TikTok.

"If you take six months to develop, then another six months to produce, you may miss the whole phase," Anand said. AI, he said, enables "personalisation of a customised product, but at the speed and efficiency of a mass-produced unit."

CONTRAPUNTO

The code is more what you'd call 'guidelines' than actual rules

– HECTOR BARBOSSA, Pirates of the Caribbean

Our Boys, At Sea

US, Iran don't care about fate of Indian seafarers stranded in Hormuz. India must speak for them more

With hostilities between US and Iran flaring once more, commercial shipping in Hormuz is again trapped in the line of fire. The killing of three Indian seafarers aboard the Palau-flagged MT Settebello, struck by US forces for allegedly attempting to breach the American blockade of Iranian ports, has underlined the perilous new reality for maritime workers. New Delhi was right to lodge a strong diplomatic protest, and demand an immediate end to attacks on commercial vessels. But the plea appears to have met a wall of indifference. Yesterday's strike on the Guinea-Bissau-flagged MT Jalveer, which had 20 Indian seafarers aboard, shows the danger is only widening. Fortunately, all crew members survived and have been rescued.

These incidents expose the deepening humanitarian emergency now gripping Hormuz. Since the US-Israel war against Iran began, nearly 20,000 seafarers, many of them Indians, have been stranded in this critical artery of global trade. Some are marooned on giant vessels where food, water and morale are running dangerously low. With an estimated 1,600 ships immobilised in the region, Iran's blockade and America's counter-blockade, have tied global shipping into a brutal Gordian knot. Shipowners carrying cargo worth hundreds of millions of dollars face an impossible bargain. If they coordinate with Iran to evacuate vessels, they risk American retaliation. If they seek US clearance, they may invite IRGC attacks.

The worst burden falls on crews. Many sailors are nearing the end of their contracts, with rotations already overdue. Yet repatriation remains remote. Reports that some owners are pressuring seafarers to remain on board by withholding wages or delaying sign-off, are alarming. Repatriation is not a favour. It is a right protected under international maritime law. But owners fear they will not find replacement crews, while insurers and financiers fear mounting losses. The result is a grim calculus in which human beings are treated as ballast, while ships are pushed into dangerous transit runs.

The only humane solution is coordinated evacuation of vessels and crews from Hormuz. But as long as Washington and Tehran treat the waterway as a weapon of war, cooperation will remain elusive. This has consequences far beyond the Gulf. If major sea lanes can be militarised at will, international trade itself becomes fragile. The shipping industry may also face a recruitment crisis, as seafaring regains its old reputation as a hazardous calling. India, with its long maritime tradition and large seafarer workforce, must lead the campaign for open sea lanes and the protection of sailors. That mission sits squarely within its multi-aligned foreign policy.

Pump, Baby, Pump

Amazingly, Trump now says he loves inflation. Does that mean Iran war will go on, and on...?

On June 11, Trump tweeted, "The United States has VERY LOW INFLATION, a beautiful thing!" But that was 2019, when X was still Twitter. Now, exactly seven years later, he has a different take: "I love the inflation." In Buenos Aires, 8,400km south of Washington, DC, his pal Javier Milei might be scratching his head. He's got Argentina's annual inflation down to 32%, from 200% before his election, with punishing austerity. What's he to do, reverse course? Trump's own voters must be digging for his poll warranty. They're pretty sure he wrote, "INFLATION IS A DISASTER!", on Sept 26, 2024, and "With your vote in this election, I WILL END INFLATION," a month later. In fact, he was an inflation hawk even 15 years ago. There's his tweet from Sept 30, 2011: "The Fed's reckless policies of low interest and flooding the market with dollars needs (sic) to be stopped or we will face record inflation."

Why has he gone rogue? That's easy: Trump never sings *mea culpa*. Howsoever he messes up – tariffs, Hormuz – the result is genius. So, if petrol prices in US have risen from $2.9 to $4.1 per gallon in three months, and inflation has touched 4.2%, against Fed's target of 2%, it's okay. Didn't he say last month, "I don't think about Americans' financial situation. I don't think about anybody..." That's how his 4-5 week "excursion" in Iran has stretched to 15 weeks already, with no end in sight. He's right, oil prices and inflation will fall after the war is over, but who knows when that might be. If inflation and voters' pain can't check Trump anymore, what will? We've all got to live with a sinking feeling meanwhile – rising prices, slowing growth. And keep pumping, to stay afloat.

AI: Appraised Individual

Who's the last human standing? Not the manager

Sivakumar.Sundaram@timesofindia.com

In a glass cabin sits Mr Rao, a manager who has survived 20 appraisal cycles by the simple expedient of never deciding anything. Before him sit this year's contestants for one remaining seat: Sharma, carbon-based, and SH4RM4, cloud-based. Each has been invited to demonstrate why the other is unnecessary, a modern way of building team spirit.

The machine goes first, as machines do, having no politeness to slow it down. "This year I resolved 14,000 tickets, attended zero birthday celebrations in the conference room, took no sick leave, and my uptime was 99.99%." It pauses for effect, an effect it learned from a dataset. "Sharma's uptime, adjusted for tea, was 61%."

Sharma is unmoved. "Sir, in March the Ahmedabad client called to cancel the contract. I asked after her daughter's board exams, listened for 40 minutes, and the contract doubled. Empathy, sir, is not yet available on subscription."

"I processed that client's invoice in 0.3 seconds," says the bot. "And I once delayed an invoice 3 weeks out of pure tact, which is why the client still exists. Speed is what you offer a customer when you do not know him," says Sharma. The bot attempts sentiment, as a chess move. "I have been trained on the complete work of every employee, including Mr Sharma." "That is precisely the trouble," murmurs Sharma. "It knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing." The bot calculates the cost of this insult at 0.002 paise and files it under feedback.

Mr Rao listens with mounting unease. Every decision he might take, the bot takes faster, and without the committee. Every handshake he might offer, Sharma offers warmer, and with better gossip. And so, the appraisal ends with the only honest rating ever recorded in the system. Mr Rao opens his laptop, thinks resignation, the bot immediately types it out. From force of habit, he asks the bot to rephrase it elegantly, and Sharma to deliver it with feeling. Both, for once, exceed expectations.

He walks out a free man, past half a million employees and half a million agents, reflecting that he is the only one in the building who knows exactly what his job no longer is. To lose one employee to a machine, is a misfortune. To lose the manager to clarity, looks suspiciously like progress.

Global Warning: World Cup's Begun

Pride, joy, grief, ugly US visa rules, a shady FIFA, govts, like that in Scotland, changing laws for fans...it's football as theatre, and so, there'll be an element of farce as well

Javier Dale

Columnist based in Barcelona

2026 marks the 30th anniversary of a major change in European football. From July 1, 1996, football clubs belonging to EU were able to sign players from other EU countries and register them in competitions not as foreign players, but as nationals. For example, until then, Spain's La Liga allowed its teams to have four foreign players on their rosters.

From then on, an Italian, French, English or German player had the same right to play for a Spanish club as a Spaniard, and vice versa. That was the Bosman ruling: Jean-Marc Bosman was a Belgian player who had received an offer to play for a French team but was prevented from doing so.

European Court ruled that, as a European citizen, he had the right to work anywhere in EU without discrimination. That legal step turned the transfer market upside down, not only in Europe, but globally.

South American players searched for their ancestors in order to find a European relative who would allow them to play under the Bosman ruling. Virtually overnight, being a foreigner was no longer a reason not to play for a European club. Football became global – even more global.

The 2026 World Cup, which has just started, could have a similar effect on the transfer market. For this edition of the tournament, FIFA has widened its boundaries. In 2022, 32 national teams played in World Cup. Now there will be 48 national teams. Cape Verde, Curaçao, Jordan and Uzbekistan will make their World Cup debuts. It will also be the first time Qatar has qualified on sporting merit, rather than as tournament hosts. Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo will return to World Cup after 52 years. These teams, and their players, will be in the spotlight for a few weeks. Could a Curaçao player earn a move to one of Europe's major leagues after this World Cup? Who knows. It is no longer impossible.

Alas, the most global World Cup ever is being played, in part, in US that has turned nationality into a source of international concern. Although FIFA created and awarded Trump a peace prize in an apparent attempt to soften his immigration policies – after the president expressed resentment at not having received the Nobel Peace Prize – the country's stringent anti-immigration measures have already cast a shadow over the tournament.

Conditions under which Iran's national team will participate remain uncertain. Iran is scheduled to play its group-stage matches in Los Angeles and Seattle, but there are no guarantees regarding the circumstances surrounding its participation.

Somali referee Omar Artan will not officiate at the tournament after being denied entry into US. Moreover, *BBC* has reported that several British fans have seen their previously approved visas suddenly change status mere days before the start of the competition, effectively barring them from entering the country.

Image: AI

As a global phenomenon, World Cup is no longer just about football, especially this year, given the global political climate. Although FIFA – as demonstrated by investigations in previous years of Joseph Blatter's administration and by suspicions, if not outright evidence, of corruption and bribery – treats the competition as business, it is far more than that. It is politics. It is pride.

Ultimately, what is a tournament like World Cup? Is it what its organisers want it to be, or how fans perceive it?

It is probably the latter. In Spain, the absence for the first time of any Real Madrid players in the national team's World Cup squad sparked intense debate. So intense, in fact, that Real Madrid – arguably the best-known private institution in Spain worldwide – held presidential elections for the first time in 20 years.

For Real Madrid supporters, seeing Spain win the World Cup – the team is considered among the favourites – without a single 'madridista' player in the national squad would feel like an affront. Italy, a four-time world champion, underwent a period of soul-searching after failing to qualify for World Cup finals for the third consecutive edition. Its last appearance came in 2014. Italian media spoke of an entire generation of children with no personal memory of seeing Italy compete in the tournament it has won four times.

Scotland deserves special mention – having qualified for the World Cup for the first time in 28 years. They will make their tournament debut this Saturday (Sunday in Scotland) against Haiti, a favourable opponent against whom victory is a realistic prospect.

Scotland's last World Cup win came in 1990. Because of the time difference, the match will kick off at 2am, one hour after pubs would normally close. Scottish govt therefore moved swiftly to amend licensing regulations, allowing pubs to remain open so supporters could follow their team in the traditional Scottish manner: standing at the bar with a pint in hand.

Scottish govt also declared the Monday following the match as a bank holiday – an optional public holiday – a measure that required the signature of King Charles III. Anticipating a victory, a long night and plenty of heavy drinking, the Scottish executive was understandably reluctant to risk unpopularity among Scottish fans – which, in practical terms, is much the same as risking unpopularity with Scotland as a whole.

This, in the end, is what World Cup is: a global marketplace, a political stage, a source of national joy, but also of disappointment. It is a tournament with the power to change laws, even if they are not the right ones.

As in a theatrical play, World Cup contains an element of farce: it creates the illusion that, just for once, ordinary people matter.

The tournament's grand final will be played on July 19. By July 20, the farce will be over.

Dale is a sports writer for La Vanguardia, a Spanish newspaper

Outraging Modesty? That's Outrageously Illogical

That statutes use this term even today shows the disturbing influence of the old idea of pigeonholing women with a concept of 'lajja'. Like in UK, create a new, logical category, sex-based criminal behaviour

Nandita.Sengupta@timesofindia.com

One 'crime against women' in India is the category 'outraging modesty of women'. To be sure, behaviour and actions two IPC/BNS sections cover are criminal, have a high incidence (over 70% in crimes reported against women), and demand a distinct place in law.

All such actions are intended to harass women. They are unwanted behaviour, not necessarily sexual in nature, but entirely gendered – the victim is targeted only because she is a woman. Such repeated behaviour is demeaning, degrading and humiliating, and impacts her ability to move freely, without a sense of dread. Such actions intimidate, can instil fear for life, and paralyse thought, but stop short of being categorised as stalking. But nonetheless, these actions freeze the mind, scramble rationality, and impact mental health in the long term. But, to club all of this under 'outraging modesty', for 156 years and counting, is borderline travesty. Let's unpack why.

What behaviour invites charges of 'outraging modesty of women'? Indecency physical, psychological, sexual. Sounds, gestures, words. Catcalling, whistling, very desi "pulling at dupatta". The term 'outraging modesty' is used in two IPC/BNS sections, it can include physical acts, but also captures unwanted targeted attention that invades privacy, attacks dignity.

But, how does 'outraging modesty' define any of this? Aren't they all, in various degrees, violence against women? Supreme Court had once said, "the essence of a woman's modesty is her sex." Whatever does that mean?

Modesty is not legally defined. But it is 'understood'. Macaulay may have introduced it, but it has endured, its place in law assured, never accused of being archaic, because it sits perfectly with desi ideas of 'lajja', which roughly means both a woman's 'shame' and 'honour' – 'modesty', in the way SC has seen it.

This is the problem. What falls under lajja has undergone seachange, given women's education, access to opportunities, jobs and mobility, beyond neighbourhood. Her sense of self-worth is a different complexion from the 19th or 20th centuries, shaped by peers and a generation of progressive mothers or parents, teachers and community, across strata and regions.

But patriarchy is no pushover. Upshot: the provision has become almost entirely subject to changing ideas of what constitutes a woman's 'modesty' – in judges' minds. The yardstick is forever shifting. Thus, the two 'outrage modesty' provisions, have not so much to do with evidence, but with court's subjectivity.

So, a man on a bicycle shoving a woman pedestrian, on repeated occasions, did not "outrage her modesty", concluded one judge – although court conceded it was

Image: AI

gendered harassment. If one court found using the slur "randi" not offensive to the woman petitioner, another said it indeed "outraged a woman's modesty". The bar is raised or lowered, depending on judges' own approach to a woman's status.

Modern women's sense of 'outrage', and specific inclusion of stalking, voyeurism, etc in law, has led to more men being hauled to courts. A study in *BMC Public Health* noted that between 2001 and 2018, reporting under "assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty", doubled: a percent change of 99.7%.

Yet, well over 70% of sexual assault-related cases where trials are completed (barely 10%, per the study), ended in acquittals. To decide whether the perpetrator of violence – spoken, unspoken, sexual, non-sexual – deserves punishment, judges have tended to insist on physicality of offence to convict.

Women have discarded parts of the old idea of 'modesty', say, in rejecting that the onus of 'shame' is on behaviour, or attire. They have a sharper sense of self-esteem, dignity and privacy. Neither society nor courts could be bothered, earnest platitudes aside.

Look around. The quiet closing of ranks, years of 'looking away', resulted in more than a few #MeToo-accused protected, despite appalling behaviour, in many parts of the white-collar world. That alone ran counter to any consideration for 'her modesty'.

It takes courage to risk one's career, reputation, to call out an accused – anywhere. Much of the behaviour these women suffered at the workplace, was harassment, sexual and otherwise, stopping short of physical attack. Much of that behaviour was plain misogyny. How far did POSH go? Much of that behaviour was enabled by organisational/neighbourhood/family considerations for a man's "reputation", which, on any day, will trump a woman's "modesty", no matter how much the latter is outraged.

In 2023, UK recognised that a range of crimes, 100% gendered, criminal and grievous, but not sexual in nature, demanded a separate law. They introduced the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Act 2023. Sex-based, not 'modesty'-based. It's a specific criminal offence of intentionally causing harassment, alarm or distress. Crimes against women are clubbed under Violence Against Women & Girls. There is no confusion over definitions, or interpretation.

Similarly, swing the spotlight on the perpetrator. Indian law must recognise that violence nested under the 'modesty outraged' sections has nothing to do with 1870s 'modesty' and everything to do with 'sexism', a word that's been around since the 1960s, and misogyny.

Here's a suggestion: Replace 'modesty' with 'sex-based' in sections that cover a range of ever-new forms of harassment of women, targeted because of their sex.

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

Acceptance looks like a passive state, but in reality, it brings something entirely new into this world. That peace, a subtle energy vibration, is consciousness.

Eckhart Tolle

Profound Difference Between AI And Consciousness

Reuben Ray

We live in an age defined by remarkable advances in artificial intelligence and space exploration. Machines are learning to perform tasks once considered uniquely human. Spacecraft are venturing farther into the cosmos than ever before, while scientists and entrepreneurs envision a future in which we may one day live on other planets.

The modern world celebrates these achievements as milestones of progress. They reflect humanity's creativity, curiosity, and relentless desire to transcend limitations. Yet every frontier crossed raises another question: As we prepare to explore new worlds, have we truly explored the Self?

AI can process immense volumes of information in moments. It can identify patterns, solve complex problems, and generate responses that appear remarkably intelligent. Yet there remains a profound difference between intelligence and consciousness.

A machine may know many things; however, it does not know that it knows. It may analyse emotions; it does not experience them. It may describe compassion; it does not feel it. This distinction invites us to reflect upon one of the deepest mysteries of existence. What is consciousness?

Science has made extraordinary progress in understanding the human brain. Neural networks can be mapped, cognitive functions studied, and behaviour often predicted. Yet the inner experience of awareness remains one of the greatest unsolved mysteries.

No instrument has yet measured the meaning of love, the peace of forgiveness, the joy of selfless service, or the stillness experienced in deep meditation. These belong to the realm of consciousness. The wisdom traditions of the world have long regarded consciousness as more than a product of biological activity. Sages described it as the light through which all experiences are perceived. Their quest was not directed towards distant galaxies but towards the inner universe of awareness.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Without self-awareness, progress can become directionless. History repeatedly demonstrates that human suffering emerges from greed, fear, hatred, and the inability to understand ourselves and one another. The challenge before humanity is therefore not merely technological; it is spiritual.

Can we cultivate the wisdom necessary to guide the powers we are creating? Can we develop ethical maturity equal to our scientific capability? Can we ensure that our inventions serve human flourishing rather than diminish it?

These questions are not obstacles to progress; they are essential to it. AI may transform the way we think and work. Space exploration may transform where we live. Yet neither can answer the timeless question of who we are.

That inquiry begins in silence and deepens through self-awareness. It culminates in the recognition that consciousness may be humanity's greatest discovery. We now stand at a remarkable threshold. Artificial Intelligence is expanding the power of the human mind, while space exploration is extending the reach of human civilisation. Yet the greatest frontier remains neither in silicon chips nor among distant stars; it lies within the unexplored depths of human consciousness. The future will belong not merely to those who build smarter machines or faster spacecraft, but to those who discover the wisdom to guide them. While technology may take humanity to Mars, only consciousness can take humanity to its highest destiny.

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026

STEVEN SPIELBERG SAYS JAMES BOND MOVIES 'CONSTANTLY TURNED ME DOWN'; IF ASKED TO DIRECT NOW, 'I'D SAY YOU CAN'T AFFORD ME'

DO NOT LET WHAT YOU CANNOT DO INTERFERE WITH WHAT YOU CAN DO — JOHN WOODEN

OLIVIA RODRIGO DREAMS ABOUT GETTING PROPOSED AT NY CENTRAL PARK, SAYS HER WEDDING SONG WILL BE 'I MELT WITH YOU' BY MODERN ENGLISH

Trump says US will hit Iran 'very hard', but cancels attack plan few hours later

Also Threatens To Seize Kharg Island, Vital For Iran's Oil Exports

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

AP

A boat passes anchored vessels in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas

Washington: "The United States will be hitting Iran... VERY HARD TONIGHT," Trump declared in a social media post Thursday. "At some point in the not too distant future, we will be taking Kharg Island, and other oil infrastructure points, and assume total control of their Oil and Gas Markets, much like we have with Venezuela." A few hours later, he said he is canceling the strikes "based on the fact that discussions with the Islamic Republic of Iran have been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved."

"Discussions and final points have been, in both concept and great detail, approved by all parties involved, including the US, Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Turkiye, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, and others. The Naval Blockade will remain in full force and effect until this Transaction is finalised — Time and place of the signing to be announced shortly," he wrote on Truth Social

Trump built a political movement around a simple proposition: America had spent too much blood and money policing the world. The Iraq War was a "big, fat mistake." Afghanistan was an endless quagmire. Nation-building, he argued, had drained American power.

Now, as a second term President, Trump pushed for one of the most audacious military moves contemplated by any modern American administration due to his frustration with Iran not agreeing to a deal on his terms: seizing Iran's Kharg Island, the tiny but immensely strategic Persian Gulf outpost through which roughly 90% of Tehran's crude exports flow.

Earlier in the day, speaking to Fox News, Trump made clear that Kharg Island has long fascinated him as both a strategic and commercial prize. "My preference has always been to take Kharg Island," he said, noting, "I don't know that America has the stomach for it, to be honest with it." He added, "You'd make a fortune."

The Kharg island is small – but its importance is enormous. Situated about 20 miles off Iran's coast, it serves as the heart of Iran's energy sector. Analysts estimate that about nine out of every ten barrels of Iranian crude exported to world markets pass through its terminals.

Trump's proposal was backed by some among hawkish Republicans. Senator Lindsey Graham argued that controlling Kharg could fundamentally alter the balance of power: "If there is no deal soon, Mr. President, you are right to put on the table the taking of Kharg Island," Graham wrote, describing the idea as "the ultimate game changer," and arguing that combining control of Kharg with freedom of navigation through Hormuz would restore American leverage.

Some figures aligned with Trump's broader foreign policy instincts sounded alarms. Former Trump administration official Joe Kent warned that any occupation could rapidly become a military nightmare, making US troops essentially hostages because Iran retains some capabilities despite repeated American strikes.

Military analysts noted that taking the island might be easier than holding it. Kharg lies within easy striking distance of the Iranian mainland. Even if Tehran's conventional military capabilities have been degraded, Iran is believed to retain drone and missile arsenals capable of targeting a fixed American position. The island's proximity to Iran means occupying forces could also face constant harassment from Shahed drones, missile attacks and sabotage operations.

Trump's threats raised fundamental questions about his broader strategy. One possibility is that the rhetoric represented coercive diplomacy — an attempt to frighten Iranian leaders into making concessions they have thus far resisted. Yet such brinkmanship carried risks of its own. Analysts were of the opinion that threats of territorial seizure could harden positions in Tehran, empower hardliners and narrow the already limited space for negotiations. Some said that Iranian leadership, having framed the conflict as resistance against foreign domination, might find it politically impossible to compromise under explicit threats of occupation.

Or maybe, Trump was considering escalation. If so, it would have represented the most dramatic departure yet from the anti-interventionist impulses that helped him come to office. Trump who once mocked America's "endless wars" would be contemplating precisely the kind of operation he long condemned. And the consequences would have extended beyond Washington and Tehran, into New Delhi, Tokyo, Beijing, Seoul and beyond.

Iran maritime body says Hormuz shut until further notice

Iran's new body overseeing the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday confirmed a complete closure order for the strategic waterway until further notice, after the Revolutionary Guards announced the move overnight. "Due to the tensions caused by the aggression of the American forces in the region and the announcement made last night by the Iranian armed forces, the Strait of Hormuz will be closed until further notice," the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) said on X. "Applicants who have been granted a transit permit are asked to be patient and wait for instructions from PGSA." AFP

Bessent: US will extract funds from Iran a/cs if needed

Treasury secretary Scott Bessent said the US will tap into frozen Iranian assets to pay for any damage the country inflicts on its allies in the Gulf. "Any tolls paid to the Persian Gulf Strait Authority will be offset by funds extracted from their accounts," Bessent said in a post on X Thursday. "Every attack Iran launches will only deepen the economic and financial consequences it faces," he added. Among its demands in peace negotiations, Tehran has insisted that roughly $24 billion in frozen assets be returned and compensation for the war paid. BLOOMBERG

Gulf-Lebanon ties thaw as Saudi lifts 5-year ban on Lebanese imports

Beirut: Saudi Arabia announced on Wednesday the end of a ban it imposed on Lebanese imports five years ago, marking a major step in attempts to rebuild relations between Lebanon and Gulf countries.

The kingdom slapped a ban on Lebanese fruits and vegetables in 2021, saying they were being used to smuggle drugs. In one notable case, Saudi Arabia announced it had seized over 5 million pills of the amphetamine drug Captagon hidden in a shipment of pomegranates coming from Lebanon. Months later, the wealthy Gulf country extended the ban to all Lebanese products after Lebanon's information minister at the time, George Kordahi, publicly criticised Saudi Arabia's war against Iran-backed rebels in Yemen. At the root of the diplomatic crisis was Saudi Arabia's regional rivalry with Iran and its displeasure with the influence of the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry said in a statement Wednesday that the reversal of the ban at the order of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman came as a result of "positive steps taken by the Lebanese state." It did not specify what those steps were, but over the past year, the Lebanese govt has announced plans to disarm all non-state groups, including Hezbollah. Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in a statement thanked MbS for the decision, which he said "will contribute tangibly to reviving the national economy and providing support to broad segments of Lebanese producers and exporters." REUTERS

Blow for Starmer: UK defence min quits over military spending row

London: British defence minister John Healey quit on Thursday in a dispute over military spending, accusing PM Keir Starmer of failing to commit the resources that are needed to keep the country safe from heightened threats.

The unexpected resignation, accompanied by a scathing public letter, compounds the pressure on Starmer when he is facing a likely leadership challenge and exposes the crisis at the heart of the British govt — how it can ramp up defence spending when there is little money to spare and the welfare budget keeps rising.

Healey had been locked in talks with Starmer and finance minister Rachel Reeves for months over how to meet the additional military spending needed, delaying Britain's Defence Investment Plan, which was due last year. "You have been unable, and the treasury has been unwilling, to commit the resources that the nation needs to defend the country at this time of rising threats," Healey said in his letter to Starmer.

Healey's high-profile resignation comes as Starmer struggles to hold onto power, after Wes Streeting resigned as health minister in May.

A govt source said Starmer had cut spending in other govt departments and would deliver a spending plan that would guarantee the capability the armed forces need. Britain, historically a great military power, was left exposed in March when it was unable to immediately deploy an advanced warship to Cyprus after its air base there was hit by an Iranian-made drone. Already contending with the US pivot away from protecting Europe, Britain is now the third biggest spender in Nato, having been overtaken by Germany in 2024, and the investment plan was aimed at bringing the armed forces to a state of "warfighting readiness".

AFP/File

UK PM Keir Starmer and former defence secretary John Healey

Starmer has pledged the largest sustained increase in defence spending since the Cold War, aiming to lift it to 3% of national output in the next parliament. But Healey said the plan he had seen would increase defence spending to only 2.68% in 2030, when it will already reach 2.6% next year. Healey said Starmer's proposed increase in funding for defence fell "well short" of what was needed to help the military meet increased threats from Russia as well as demands to increase its presence in the Arctic and West Asia. The govt has struggled to find the extra cash at a time when the economy is stagnating and both debt and the overall tax burden are at or close to their highest level in decades. REUTERS

Indian-Amercian held for 'manipulating' insurance titles to 'defraud' bank of $100m

Washington: A 44-year-old Indian-American man was arrested in California for allegedly defrauding a bank of nearly $100 million by manipulating title records of insurance policies. Mahender Makhijani has been living in the US on a Green Card and faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in jail if convicted.

As alleged, Makhijani falsified title insurance records, concealed true lien positions, and used a network of shell companies to mislead a federally insured bank out of nearly $100 million," said Darren Lian, acting special agent in charge, IRS Criminal Investigation's (IRS CI) Los Angeles field office.

According to an affidavit filed with the complaint, Makhijani controls Cantor Group V LLC, a Newport Beach-based company with a lending relationship with the bank. Under the terms of their loan agreement, the bank advanced nearly $100 million to Cantor to originate or secure loans secured by real estate. Cantor was supposed to then pledge the loans it secured, and their underlying collateral, to the bank, paying back the bank from the proceeds of the loans.

From Sept 2024 to April 2025, Makhijani allegedly falsified title insurance policies to make them state that Cantor was in the first lien position with respect to certain real estate serving as collateral. After falsifying the title policies, Makhijani caused his then-employee to submit the false title insurance policies to the Bank. PTI

Canada introduces bill to ban social media for U-16s

Canadian PM Mark Carney's govt introduced legislation that would ban social media for youth under-16 unless companies such as Meta Platforms Inc. and X Corp. meet a set of safety standards. The bill unveiled Wednesday would also impact artificial intelligence chatbots, though they wouldn't face a ban on youth users.

Firms must mitigate the risk of the chatbot communicating harmful content and be transparent about their reporting thresholds in crisis.

"The act will require social media platforms and AI chatbot services to do more to protect children, to make their platforms safe by design," culture minister Marc Miller said at a press conference. The legislation enables the creation of a digital regulator, which would impose the new rules on platforms. Firms that don't comply with the law will face a maximum penalty equivalent to 3% of the firm's global revenues or C$10 million ($7.2 million) — whichever is greater. PTI

A false alarm triggers brief shelter-in-place order at Pentagon

Washington: A false alarm at the Pentagon following an air quality warning briefly triggered a partial shelter-in-place order on Wednesday at the US military's headquarters, as first responders worked to rule out exposure to hazardous materials, officials said.

The lockdown applied to several corridors of the five-sided building in Arlington, Virginia. Employees were told to stay put while tests were carried out to determine whether a faulty sensor was to blame. Many employees outside the areas of concern were told to leave the building as a precaution, officials said.

"Earlier this morning, Pentagon occupants were notified of a potential air quality issue, prompting immediate precautionary safety measures and evaluation. Subsequent testing confirmed no hazard exists, and normal operations have resumed," said chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell. "We express our sincere appreciation to the first responders for their swift actions to ensure the safety of all personnel."

The Pentagon, one of the world's largest office buildings, was hit during the Sept 11, 2001 al-Qaida attacks. Arlington County fire department had earlier said it was helping with what it called a "hazardous materials incident," according to spokesperson Capt. Jamie Jill. CNN reported that firefighters and emergency medical services staff had reported to the scene, with people wearing gas masks and full chemical protective gear. REUTERS

Lord Ranger challenges CBE revocation in court

Naomi Canton

London: British Indian Tory peer Lord Ranger has challenged the revocation of his CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) in the high court in London. It is the first time anyone has ever taken the UK govt to court over their chivalric honour being revoked.

The multi-millionaire businessman brought legal action against UK PM Keir Starmer in the administrative court on Thursday, saying the decision to strip him of his CBE was unlawful and should be quashed.

The decision to revoke his CBE was taken by King Charles, on the advice of Starmer following a decision of the "Honours Forfeiture Committee" which determined that Ranger had "brought the honours system into disrepute" for tweets he had made.

Tom Hickman KC, representing Ranger, said that the PM relied on allegations that were never put to Ranger. In addition "personal disputes" were used, even though that goes against the committee's guidelines and the decision was taken without waiting for the outcome of a libel claim made by Sikhs for Justice.

Desi EB-1A applicant's court win stands, USCIS drops appeal

Lubna Kably | TNN

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has withdrawn its appeal against a district court ruling that had struck down the agency's use of the controversial 'final merits determination' framework in an EB-1A extraordinary ability green card case involving an Indian applicant.

In late Jan, a Nebraska district court not only set aside USCIS's denial of an EB-1A petition (application) but also direct the agency to approve it. However, USCIS sought review of this order — an appeal it has now withdrawn.

In a press release issued on June 10, Ariela Lake Law and Brian Green — immigration attorney representing the applicant, explained that USCIS must now approve the petition as ordered by the district court. More significantly, they stated that the district court ruling will continue to serve as 'persuasive legal authority' in future challenges to USCIS's reliance on the two-step adjudication process.

EB-1A is a fast-track US green card category for individuals with extraordinary ability, allowing them to self-petition based on sustained national or international acclaim without employer sponsorship.

At the centre of the dispute was USCIS's two-step adjudication process. Under this framework, officers first determine whether an applicant has either won a major international award or satisfies at least three of 10 regulatory criteria, such as recognised prizes, published material, judging the work of others, original contributions or leading roles at reputed organisations.

Getty Images

EB-1A is a fast-track US green card category for individuals with extraordinary ability

Once that threshold is crossed, USCIS conducts a second review known as the 'final merits determination', reassessing the evidence to decide whether the applicant has demonstrated sustained acclaim and belongs to the small percentage at the top of the field.

In the present case, USCIS had accepted that the applicant met five regulatory criteria but denied the application at the final merits stage, contending that she had not demonstrated sustained acclaim in more recent years.

The district court found that approach legally flawed. It held that USCIS had adopted the second-step review through internal memoranda without undertaking the notice-and-comment rulemaking required under the Administrative Procedure Act.

TOI spoke to several immigrant attorneys who welcome the withdrawal but point out that the impact should not be overstated. Cyrus D. Mehta, a New York-based immigration attorney, told **TOI** that had the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on the merits and affirmed the lower court, the decision could have become 'binding precedent' within that jurisdiction and potentially influenced courts elsewhere.

"By withdrawing the appeal, USCIS avoided the risk of an adverse appellate ruling while leaving the district court judgment intact," he said. As a result, the ruling remains persuasive and is binding only in relation to the applicant.

For EB-1A applicants, the immediate impact is limited but potentially significant. While the withdrawal does not dismantle the final merits test across the board, it may provide future litigants with an additional argument when challenging denials that rely on standards not rooted in statute.

Situation Room with a view: Trump, Epstein and US' 'wag the dog' whispers

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The White House Situation Room, forged during the Kennedy years of the Cold War, has hosted some of the most consequential discussions in modern American history: nuclear crises, the raid that killed Osama bin Laden, responses to terrorist attacks, and wars overseas.

According to a forthcoming book by New York Times reporters Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan, it also played host to an unusual debate over Jeffrey Epstein, Tucker Carlson, Ghislaine Maxwell, and whether Donald Trump's political predicament had become, in Vice President JD Vance's words, "a huge problem."

Just when President Trump may have believed the Epstein saga was fading into the rear-view mirror, Haberman and Swan's book "Regime Change: Inside the Imperial Presidency of Donald Trump" appears determined to adjust the mirrors and bring it sharply back into focus.

The book, excerpts of which have been published by NYT, describes senior administration officials gathering in the secure confines of the Situation Room in July 2025 to discuss the political fallout from the administration's handling of the Epstein files in what the book calls a "White House freak-out." Vance reportedly pushed for transparency, warning colleagues that the issue would not simply disappear.

One of the more surreal aspects of the account involves discussions over whether to release documents containing titillating allegations concerning Trump's purported fixation with nipples. According to the excerpt, Vance argued that Trump — who was not present at the meeting — had survived accusations far worse and would likely have "no problem" weathering these claims.

Bloomberg

White House undergoes preparation to host UFC fight on June 14

It was an assessment rooted in political reality. Trump has endured allegations and controversies that would have destroyed most politicians: the Access Hollywood tape, multiple allegations of sexual misconduct that he has denied, civil litigation, criminal prosecutions, business fraud findings, two impeachments, and a conviction in the New York hush-money case. Through it all, his support among core MAGA voters has remained resilient.

Haberman and Swan's reporting also recounts Vance floating an idea worthy of a streaming-series writers' room: having Tucker Carlson interview convicted Epstein associate Ghislaine Maxwell in the hope that she might exonerate Trump. The proposal reportedly went nowhere.

The allegations themselves stem from claims made years ago by Epstein accuser Sarah Ransome, who later acknowledged that certain claims she had made about possessing evidence involving powerful men were untrue, and that fear had motivated some of her statements, and also withdraw them. The specific allegations discussed in the Situation Room have not been substantiated in court, and Trump has denied wrongdoing.

Yet the political significance lies less in their evidentiary status than in their persistence. The Epstein affair has acquired the qualities of Washington's most indestructible storyline. It periodically disappears beneath breaking news – tariffs, indictments, assassination attempts, wars – only to resurface with fresh intensity.

The timing of the Iran attack has prompted comparisons with the 1990s Bill Clinton era. As Clinton ordered military strikes during the Monica Lewinsky scandal, critics accused him of deploying a classic "wag the dog" strategy — a reference to the 1997 film in which foreign conflict is manufactured to distract from presidential embarrassment. There is no evidence that Trump's handling of Iran is motivated by Epstein-related concerns. But Washington's conspiratorial imagination, once activated, rarely observes speed limits.

Meanwhile, Trump's political movement soldiers on largely undisturbed. To detractors, this reflects a cult of personality. To supporters, it shows loyalty to a leader they believe has been unfairly targeted. Either way, it represents one of the defining features of contemporary American politics: scandal fatigue combined with tribal persistence. The Epstein files, like an unwanted houseguest, simply refuses to leave.

DAILY PLANET

Reuters

PURRFECT: Stray cats at a shelter in Ajman, UAE. A resident has started rescuing and rehabilitating stray cats, helping tackle the country's growing number of abandoned animals

New York renames streets after Pele and Thierry Henry

New York has honoured two footballing greats by temporarily renaming streets after Thierry Henry and **Pele** ahead of the World Cup kickoff, according to the city council. The tournament -- co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico -- begins Thursday and the final will be played next month at the MetLife Stadium, rebranded as the New York New Jersey Stadium, just outside the city. Crowds gathered in downtown Manhattan to mark the unveiling of "Thierry Henry Way" by officials, according to videos posted to social media on Wednesday. The former Arsenal and Barcelona star, who was a member of the France squad that won the 1998 World Cup, said in a recorded message on Instagram, "I can't wait to walk around there the next time I go to Rockefeller Center or Radio City Music Hall."

Aus fugitive found hiding in jet lavatory, arrested

Indonesian authorities arrested an Australian fugitive hiding in the lavatory of a private jet as it was about to take off from the island of Bali, officials said Thursday. Officers rushed onboard the plane after the pilot was ordered to return from the runway to the VIP terminal at Denpasar airport on Saturday. Officials had become suspicious of a man travelling on a Brazilian passport with no record of entry to Indonesia or a residence permit for the country.

Sweden's proposal to jail 13-year-olds withdrawn

Sweden's right-wing govt withdrew Thursday a contested proposal to lower the age at which children can be sentenced to prison from 15 to 13, citing a lack of support in parliament. Justice minister Gunnar Strommer said govt would present a revised proposal lowering the age to 14 which has been favoured by main opposition Social Democrats. He said he expected parliament to approve the measure by Aug. The minority govt has made the fight against crime a top priority since it assumed office in 2022.

Aye or Ney? Brazilian star still in recovery mode

Neymar Missing From Training As Ancelotti's Squad Prepares For Opener Against Morocco

Morristown (New Jersey): Forward Neymar was again absent from Brazil's training ground at Morristown in New Jersey on Wednesday as the team celebrated coach Carlo Ancelotti's 67th birthday while preparing for its World Cup curtain-raiser against Morocco on Saturday.

Ancelotti's players honoured the Italian, who is tasked with ending Brazil's 24-year wait for a sixth World Cup title, with a traditional guard of honour. However, Barcelona forward Raphinha joked that the players opted for gentler treatment than is customary! "He passed through it, but nobody touched him," Raphinha remarked. "What he has achieved in football is admirable, not just to those who worked with him but also his opponents," Raphinha added.

Talisman Neymar continues his intensive rehabilitation for a grade-two calf injury suffered while playing for Santos in Brazil in mid-May.

The 34-year-old is certain to miss the first game and there is no indication yet whether he will feature in subsequent matches against Haiti and Scotland. Despite Neymar's absence, Brazilian pundits present at the training ground remained optimistic. "Brazil is not the great favourite, but it has good players that can come together to form a good team. I think it has its chances," said Zinho, a key midfielder in the Brazil side that won the World Cup in the United States in 1994.

Zinho believes Ancelotti's side will be cautious against a Morocco team that reached the semifinals at the last World Cup. Benjamin Back, a Brazilian radio commentator, said Ancelotti would not alter the team's style. "He will have a team that defends and waits for the opponents' actions, before trying to be quick in the transition to attack once it has the ball," he said.

"It is a young group, with good physical condition, and a great coach. I would put Brazil among the favourites," he added.

Reuters

CARLO'S DAY: Birthday boy Ancelotti gets a guard of honour from Brazil's players on Wednesday

Spike Lee in attendance

Veteran filmmaker Spike Lee, 69, then appeared as a surprise spectator at the training session, wearing a Brazil top and cap. "I want Brazil to win," insisted Lee, who called Neymar "my man".

Brazil's first game will take place at the MetLife Stadium. REUTERS

RONALDO MISSES BIG CHANCES IN WARMUP WIN

Leiria (Portugal): Portugal are heading to the World Cup on the back of a 2-1 warmup win over Nigeria and some regrets for star striker Cristiano Ronaldo.

The 41-year-old Ronaldo failed to add to his men's-record international haul of 143 goals despite being presented with clear-cut chances with just the goalkeeper to beat in both halves in Leiria on Wednesday. The five-time world player of the year was substituted off in the 65th minute, having been given longer on the field than every other outfield player to start the match for Portugal. AP

CAMP NOW

Brazil have suffered a medical avalanche. Ancelotti has lost **Rodrygo, Estevao, Eder Militao and Wesley**, all potential starters, while **Neymar has been ruled out of the Morocco match.**

CENTREBACK PAIRING: Brazil still boast a formidable centre back pairing in Marquinhos and Gabriel Magalhaes, but Ancelotti must improvise at right back after losing Wesley and versatile Militao. Danilo and Ibanez are competing for the role, with midfielder Ederson also an option. REUTERS

MEDICAL ROOM

Neymar, 34, is no longer the tactical focal point of Ancelotti's Selecao. But if he can recover from a calf ailment to contribute to matches, he would provide an emotional lift, and an attacking weapon. There are other nations which are anxiously waiting for their stars to fully recover too...

Bukayo Saka (England): The 24-year-old winger has managed a Achilles issue for months. It appears to be a question of load management and pain tolerance.

Alphonso Davies (Canada): The 25-year-old fullback has battled injuries for a year, beginning with an ACL tear in 2025 March. He is unlikely to be ready for the opener against Bosnia on Thursday.

Chris Richards (USA): The 26-year-old is the team's best central defender. But has returned to practice this week.

Julio Enciso (Paraguay): The 22-year-old attacker left Paraguay's final WC qualifier at home in pain. It turned out to be a thigh bruise.

Riya takes one-shot lead

Mysuru: Rookie Riya Jadon took the lead on the opening day of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club here on Thursday. The teenager carded a 3-under-67, highlighted by two birdies.

The Gurugram golfer was one stroke ahead of the experienced Tvesa Malik, who carded 68. Anvvi Dahhiya and Mysuru's Vidhatri Urs were

GOLF

next at 69 each at the par-70 layout. Amandeep Drall and Karishma Govind shot even-par 70s to be tied fifth. Neha Tripathi, Ananya Garg, Durga Nittur and amateur Ananyaa Sood were tied for seventh at 71 each.

Vani Kapoor was T-11 with 72, while amateur Zara Anand and Seher Atwal were T-16 with 73 each. Mannat Brar (76) was T-30. Ridhima Dilawari had a disappointing start with 77 that included three bogeys and two double bogeys. TNN

SNAP SHOTS

India 'A' go down by 4 runs

Afghanistan A caused a major upset by eking out a four-run win over star-studded India A via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in a rain-marred tri-nation series match in Dambulla on Thursday. Batting first, India A posted a daunting 349/9 in a rain-curtailed 49 overs innings. Due to persistent rain breaks, Afghanistan A's target was revised to 294 runs from 38 overs applying the DLS method. Following an explosive start by captain Imran (75 n.o) and Hassan Eisakhil (34), Afghanistan kept themselves in the hunt. Bahir Shah (51), then, joined Imran and the duo took them to 177/2 in 25.5 overs when another spell of rain stopped play. At that stage, Afghanistan A were four runs ahead of the par score, which sealed their victory. **Brief scores: India A: 349/9 in 49 overs** (Prabhsimran Singh 84, Ruturaj Gaikwad 66, Tilak Varma 66, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 44; Abdollah Ahmadzai 5-68, Farmanullah Safi 3-85) **lost to Afghanistan A 177/2 in 25.5 overs** (Imran 75 n.o, Bashir Shah 51 n.o).

Bangladesh clinch series: Towhid Hridoy hit an unbeaten 40 as Bangladesh won the second ODI by five wickets on Thursday to clinch their first-ever series win against Australia in the 50-over format. **Brief scores: Australia: 187/8 in 42 overs** (Josh Inglis 34 n.o, Marnus Labuschagne 55, Xavier Bartlett 52; Taskin Ahmed 3-33, Mustafizur Rahman 3-27, Tanvir Islam 2-45) **lost to Bangladesh (revised target: 192 in 41 overs): 195/5 in 35 overs** (Soumya Sarkar 42, Najmul Shanto 42, Towhid Hridoy 40n.o).

Manu, Rudrankksh to shoot in two events: Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, former world champion Rudrankksh Patil will start in two events at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from Sept 19 to Oct 4, **reports Tushar Dutt from Pune.** Anish Bhanwala will be the only shooter to represent India in men's 25m rapid fire pistol event.

India squad: Men: 10m air rifle: Parth Rakesh Mane, Himanshu Dhillon, Rudrankksh Patil; **50m rifle 3P:** Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Niraj Kumar, Rudrankksh; **10m air pistol:** Kedarling Uchaganve, Gaurav, Kamaljeet; **25m rapid fire:** Anish Bhanwala. **Women: 10m air rifle:** Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Uttam Maskar, Vidarsa Vinod; **50m rifle 3P:** Ashi Chouksey, Vidarsa, Tilottama Sen; (10m air rifle mixed team) Parth and Elavenil. **10m air pistol:** Suruchi, Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker; **25m sports pistol:** Esha, Manu, Rahi Sarnobat. Mixed: 10m air pistol: Kedarling Uchaganve and Suruchi.

Metro held: Karnataka Forest Department (KDF) came back from two goals down to script a 2-2 draw against Metro Hockey Club in the KSHA Super Division hockey league championship in Bengaluru on Thursday. **Result:** Metro HC 2 (Roshan 13, Teshwin 20) drew with KDF 2 (Dharsan 22, Syed Basha M 34). **Today's match:** Falcon HC vs 5 'C' SC (3pm).

Rokolisoa, Van Wyk in B'luru squad: Former World Cup winner Akuila Rokolisoa from New Zealand, South African Shilton Van Wyk, who won the bronze medal in the Paris Olympics, and Australian star Henry Hutchison were among the big names roped in by Bengaluru Bravehearts for the Rugby Premier League. The second edition of the tournament, to be played in Hyderabad from June 16 to 28, will also see India's top players Rajdeep Saha and Akash Balmiki don the Bengaluru colours, the team said in a release on Thursday.

Tanishka in TOPS: Rising Karnataka star Tanishka Kalbhairav is one of the players, who has been included in the TOPS Developmental Group. This after the age of induction for table tennis players in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) has been lowered from 17 to 13 for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympics.

INDIA'S SELF-BELIEF MEETS REALITY CHECK

IANS

Group A: Australia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Netherlands, South Africa

Group B: England, New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Scotland

INDIA'S GROUP MATCHES
June 14: India vs Pakistan, Birmingham
June 17: India vs Netherlands, Leeds
June 21: India vs South Africa, Manchester
June 25: India vs Bangladesh, Manchester
June 28: India vs Australia, Lord's
(All matches starting at 7.00 pm)

With an ODI WC title breaking a decades-long drought, Harmanpreet Kaur's India enter the Women's T20 World Cup armed with confidence. But, injuries, inconsistency, and a ruthless group leave them with no margin for error

Manuja.Veerappa
@timesofindia.com

More than 48 years after India played its first ICC World Cup match, on Jan 1, 1978, the team enters the Women's T20 World Cup in England on Friday with ICC silverware in the trophy cabinet.

Last year's ODI World Cup triumph on home soil transformed the landscape of women's cricket in India, elevating expectations and reinforcing belief. As the tournament begins on Friday, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and her team have an opportunity to further cement their place among the game's elite.

The road ahead, however, is riddled with challenges. India have been drawn in a tricky Group 1 alongside powerhouse Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh and tournament debutants the Netherlands. With only two teams advancing to the semifinals, there is little room for error

The team's build-up over the past year has reflected inconsistency. India, who made the final in 2020, began strongly with a 3-2 series victory in England, followed by a dominant 5-0 sweep of Sri Lanka at home and an impressive 2-1 triumph in Australia. But momentum has been harder to sustain in recent months. A 1-4 defeat to South Africa exposed vulnerabilities, and England followed it up with a 2-1 series win over India recently.

Injuries have faded to the woes. All-rounder Amanjot Kaur and promising pacer Kashvee Gautam have both been ruled out. Opener Shafali Verma may be required to contribute with her off-spin. The return of Yastika Bhatia after nearly nine months on the sidelines provides a timely boost. At No. 3, the left-hander adds balance and experience to a batting unit that has often struggled for consistency. Much of India's hopes will rest on the batters. Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Shafali Verma, Yastika and Jemimah Rodrigues possess the talent to dominate attacks, but converting starts into substantial scores remains a recurring challenge.

There is reason for optimism. Several Indian players are well acquainted with English conditions through The Hundred. Smriti, Harmanpreet, Jemimah, Deepti Sharma, Shafali and Richa Ghosh have all spent considerable time playing in England, giving them knowledge of surfaces and conditions.

For Jemimah, the tournament could be particularly significant. Despite enjoying success in England previously, she enters the tournament with only one half-century in her last eight innings. India will hope she rediscovers her rhythm, while senior pros Harmanpreet and Smriti shoulder responsibility for setting the tone, with powerplay remaining a grey area.

The bowling attack also faces questions. Renuka Singh will spearhead the pace unit, with Kranti Gaud, Arundhati Reddy and Nandani Sharma among the other options.

In the spin department, Deepti Sharma's recent dip in form places additional pressure on Radha Yadav, Shree Charani and Shreyanka Patil, who could play pivotal roles if India opt for a five-bowler strategy.

Beyond India, several contenders arrive with compelling storylines. Australia, the most successful women's cricket side in history, are seeking to reassert their dominance under new captain Sophie Molineux after going without a World Cup title since 2024. South Africa continue their search for a first ICC trophy, while hosts England will look to capitalise on home conditions.

Defending champions New Zealand, meanwhile, are chasing one final triumph for retiring stalwarts Sophie Devine, Suzie Bates and Lea Tahuhu.

INDIANS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Harmanpreet Kaur: India's T20 fortunes often mirror their captain's innings. Few players in the side can shift momentum as quickly. On English pitches, her ability to counter pace and handle pressure phases could prove decisive.

Smriti Mandhana: More than just runs, Mandhana brings rhythm to India's batting. Strong starts from her often provide the platform others build on. Her graceful and elegant off-side play, especially against pace, makes her India's most complete batter across conditions.

Richa Ghosh: India's X-factor finisher. Ghosh can transform totals in a matter of overs, forcing opposition captains to rethink bowling plans. In tight contests, that late surge can decide outcomes.

Jemimah Rodrigues: In a boundary-driven format, Rodrigues offers balance with her ability to rotate strike. She keeps the scoreboard ticking when conditions are tough, an underrated skill in T20 cricket.

Deepti Sharma: India's glue player. With her control in the middle overs, adaptability with the bat, and game awareness, Deepti is central to any deep run.

—Text: Hindol Basu

1 Number of appearances the Indian women's team has made in the T20 World Cup final. They lost to Australia on March 8, 2020 at Melbourne by 85 runs.

5 Number of semifinal appearances. They reached the last four stage in 2009 (England), 2010 (West Indies), 2018 (West Indies), 2020 (Australia) and 2023 (South Africa).

Versatile Chaudhary adapted to Oz cricket's demands

▶ Continued from page 1

In Jan 2017, Nikhil Chaudhary made his senior men's T20 debut as medium-pacer in a Punjab team which had a bowling attack of former India cricketers Harbhajan Singh, Sidharth Kaul, Sandeep Sharma and Gurkeerat Mann. In March that year, on his List A debut, he shared the dressing room with Yuvraj Singh. His phonebook still has the contact of India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh. But he's got his international call-up for Australia, with a stamp of permanent residency on his passport.

After representing Punjab in 14 List-A matches, Chaudhary was staring at an uncertain future. The Covid lockdown actually turned into a blessing in disguise for him. "In those eight months, Nikhil played some club matches in Brisbane. Soon the people in the system started praising him. He called me and said he was liking the culture there because he had spoken with a lot of immigrants. He said he wanted to stay back because people who matter were valuing his talent," his childhood coach Charanjeet Bhangu told TOI on Thursday.

Nikhil Chaudhary with coach Charanjit Bhangu in Ludhiana

Chaudhary had to change his game inside out to fit in. "Cricketers overseas usually struggle against spin. Foreigners come to my academy to learn to play spin. But Nikhil was always versatile. When he first came to me at the age of 10, we made him bowl off-spin and bat. But there was intense competition for off-spinner's spot in Punjab. So, when he grew older, he bowled medium-pace in-swingers. But he would also bowl leg-spin in Punjab nets," said Bhangu.

Once Chaudhary decided to stay back in Australia, he got down to doing odd jobs to make ends meet. He chopped veggies in a restaurant, drove cabs and even delivered parcels.

"He was convinced he could do something noteworthy in Australia. He always maintained a good diet but he was more than willing to embrace the food habits of that country, like the source of protein intake. Once the travel restrictions were completely lifted after two years, he came to me and spent two-and-a-half months working on his batting. In India, he was used to playing off the front foot more. Since then, he primarily comes to me to work on his batting," said the proud coach.

Chaudhary's big break came when Hobart Hurricanes picked him for the Big Bash League in 2023. "Nikhil was so right about the sports culture there. He made it to the BBL in only three years," the proud coach said.

His first-class debut came last season and he took 5 wickets on debut against Queensland besides saving a match for Tasmania with the bat.

According to cricket.com.au, Australia has had several Indian-origin players feature in international cricket, including Gurinder Sandhu and Tanveer Sangha, but not since the 1960s (when Rex Sellars, a Gujarat-born leg-spinner, featured in the 1964 Calcutta Test) has an Indian-born man played for the national side.

Dravid urges youngsters to seize opportunity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Former India skipper Rahul Dravid urged youngsters to use the upcoming KSCA Maharaja Trophy T20 tournament as a platform to showcase their talent.

Speaking at the trophy launch at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday, the Karnataka stalwart said, "The Maharaja Trophy is a very important tournament. Having been involved in the IPL, I know there will be many scouts at the

MAHARAJA TROPHY

games. The scores, statistics, and data collected from the tournament help a lot of players get into the IPL."

He cited the example of 19-year-old leggie Yashraj Punja, who made his IPL debut this season with the Rajasthan Royals. "A good example from last year's tournament is Punja. He did very well and caught the attention of the scouts," Dravid, the former Royals head coach, pointed out.

Dravid also commended KSCA's move to play the tournament, beginning on June 20, across three cities. "It's really nice to see that this year the Maharaja Trophy will be played in three cities. It's good for the game because it gives many people the opportunity to see some of the best cricketers in Karnataka live," Dravid pointed out.

Syed Asif

SHOWTIME: Former India skipper Rahul Dravid (left) and KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad unveil the Maharaja Trophy at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday

CHANGE IN PLAYING CONDITIONS

The KSCA has also decided to tweak the rules, introducing three major changes to the playing conditions of the six-team tournament. Outlining the changes, KSCA secretary Santosh Menon said the modification was necessary to achieve a better balance. There will be an impact player, but the playing XI must be submitted before the toss. This ensures some thinking goes into selecting the impact player. The second change is that there will be no runs off a free hit if the batter is out.

This gives the bowler the reward for bowling a good ball after a no-ball. The other change is that if a player is given out, and there are runs off it, and later it is found that the player is not out, then the runs will accrue to the player and the team. The tournament starts on June 20 in Mysuru with Bengaluru Blasters taking on Gulbarga Mystics. The second match of the day will be between Shivamogga Yodhas and Mysore Warriors. Between the two matches, there will be an opening ceremony featuring popular playback singer Vijay Prakash.

Anvay, Kashvi in U-19 squads

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Anvay Dravid (left) & Kashvi Kandikupp

Bengaluru: Karnataka U-19 skipper Anvay Dravid and teen talent Kashvi Kandikuppa have been named in the India U-19 men's and women's squads, respectively.

Anvay, the younger son of former India skipper Rahul Dravid, is part of the One-Day squad, which will play three matches against hosts Sri Lanka in Hambantota from July 4-9. Meanwhile, the 15-year-old Kashvi will feature in both the T20Is and One-Dayers, with India hosting Sri Lanka in Chennai (T20Is) and Puducherry (ODIs), starting June 22.

Anvay, a wicketkeeper-batter, led the state team to the quarterfinals of the Vinoo Mankad Trophy last season, scoring 220 runs from six innings, with 143 as his highest score. Last year, Anvay was part of the India U-19 'B' team for the youth triangular series held at the BCCI CoE here between India U-19 'A', India U-19 'B' and Afghanistan U-19.

Kashvi, who was part of the state team that won the BCCI U-19 T20 Trophy, also captained Karnataka to a quarterfinal finish in the BCCI women's U-15 One Day Trophy. The 15-year-old emerged as the highest run-getter, scoring 516 runs in six innings, including three centuries, at a strike rate of 166.5.

VAIDYA NAMED MANAGER

Former Karnataka wicketkeeper Avinash Vaidya has been named manager of the Indian men's team for the tour of England and Ireland. The tour begins with a two-match T20 series against Ireland in Belfast on June 26 and 28. The 59-year-old Vaidya, who is a managing committee member of the Karnataka State Cricket Association, was with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a managerial and cricket operations role for over a decade.

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GOAL RUSH
11 Jun 2026 – 19 Jul 2026
TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026

WE DON'T CONTROL EVERYTHING. WE TRY. WE'LL DISCUSS, WE WILL SPEAK, WE'LL SEE. MAYBE SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD AS WELL TO JUST CHILL, RELAX. WE TRY ALWAYS TO FIND SOLUTIONS, ALWAYS.

— **GIANNI INFANTINO**
FIFA PRESIDENT ON SOMALI REFEREE OMAR ARTAN'S DENIAL OF ENTRY TO THE US

'YAMAL SHOULD STAY CALM AND ENJOY THE MOMENT'

Midfielder Pedri On Why Spain Need Their Exceptional Young Talent To Do 'Incredible Things' In The World Cup, And How The Team Is Coping With The 'Favourites' Tag...

PEDRI DOSSIER | Age **24** | Position: **Midfielder**

41 appearances | 6 Goals | 4 Assists

SPAIN HONOURS
- UEFA European Championship 2024 **Winner**
- UEFA Nations League 2023 **Winner**

Pedri will be central to Spain's plans at the upcoming World Cup, not just as a creative passer but as the player who can set the rhythm between Rodri's control at the base and Spain's more explosive wide players. At 23, he arrives as part of Luis de la Fuente's strong midfield group. Excerpts from an interview...

Spain go in as one of the favourites to win the World Cup. Your views...
When people say so, who am I to differ! But it's not that easy. You cannot predict anything. The World Cup is an exceptional tournament. We, footballers, dream of taking part in it. It also comes once every four years, so you never know what will happen four years from now. It's better to enjoy every day that you are part of it and make memories for the future.

You're only 23, but this is going to be your second World Cup...
Well, it was a privilege to be part of the Spanish squad in Qatar. Everything was different. You just cannot compare the World Cup with any other tournament. The world will be watching it, no matter what the time difference is. And they will continue to discuss everything they saw during the greatest tournament, which makes it more special.

Spain had to bow out, losing to Morocco in the tiebreaker in the round of 16...
Our dreams were shattered that night. We played well, tried to score more goals, but we could not. I do remember we had a dream start to the tournament beating Costa Rica 7-0. We were flying high. But we failed to repeat the same in our following matches. Losing to Japan made us second in the group and then there was the heartbreak in penalties. We failed to score a single goal from the spot. It was really devastating for the team, especially the youngsters.

This time, in Group H, you start the campaign against Cape Verde, the debutants...
They played better than other teams in their qualifications and earned their place in the world event. That speaks volumes of their ability to perform. On paper, they might not be the dark horse, but on the field, they might become one. We should never be complacent.

In this edition, too, your last match against Uruguay is going to be a blockbuster contest...
They are a strong side with a great football history. We played against Germany in Qatar, which was much hyped. Now we play Uruguay, twice world champions. The World Cup is like that, you get the chance to play such matches. Both teams will be eager to finish the group on top. Football lovers of the world will be glued to their television sets.

A word on Lamine Yamal, who will be making his World Cup debut...
He is an exceptional talent. He should do well like he had done in the Euro. However, being a senior, I can only advise that he should stay calm and enjoy the moment. We have seen what he can do in the last two years or so. He just needs to continue doing the same. And when he does those incredible things with the ball, the team benefits.

In the last two editions, Spain went out in tiebreakers. Will there be specific practice sessions for taking penalties?
Penalties are like lotteries. There is no guarantee even if you had practice it a thousand times. We are a good team with talented footballers and we will be concentrating on finding ways to score at least one goal more than the opponent. We all dream about winning the Cup after 2010. But it'll be the most difficult task. ■ PMG

> **Penalties are like lotteries. There is no guarantee even if you had practice it a thousand times. We are a good team with talented footballers and we will be concentrating on finding ways to score at least one goal more than the opponent."**

TALK OF THE TOWN: Pedri and Lamine Yamal are key to Spain's campaign trail

> **You just cannot compare the World Cup with any other tournament. The entire world will be watching it, no matter what the time difference is."**

TOI Print Exclusive

Canada face injury setbacks

Toronto: Canada will carry immense pressure into their World Cup opener when they face Bosnia and Herzegovina on Friday in front of a partisan home crowd with both teams seeking a first-ever knockout stage berth. Canada's quest for respectability on the global stage has been nothing short of painful, and six defeats from six matches across the 1986 and 2022 tournaments tell the story of a nation still searching for its World Cup identity.

But coach Jesse Marsch's revolution has injected fresh belief into a program that, less than two months after he took over in May 2024, advanced to the semifinals in their Copa America debut before being sent home by reigning World Cup champions Argentina.

Marsch's blueprint for World Cup success has hit an early snag, however, with a mounting injury list threatening to derail Canada's golden opportunity to thrust soccer further into the mainstream of the country's sporting and cultural landscape. Captain Alphonso Davies, who scored Canada's first-ever goal at a World Cup, will watch the Group B opener from the sidelines at Toronto Stadium with a hamstring injury suffered during Bayern Munich's Champions League semifinal last month.

CANADA VS BOSNIA
12:30 am (Sat) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

The Davies blow is compounded by the loss of Marcelo Flores, the Mexico-turned-Canada midfielder whose switch of allegiance was seen as a coup for the World Cup co-hosts. A knee injury suffered in May has ruled Flores out entirely, while defender Moise Bombito's recovery from a broken leg appears to have stalled after lasting just 30 minutes in a warm-up against Uzbekistan.

With Davies expected back for group stage clashes against Qatar and Switzerland, the burden of carrying Canadian hopes falls largely on Jonathan David, the nation's all-time leading scorer with 39 goals.

Veteran striker Edin Dzeko, one of only two remaining players from Bosnia's debut World Cup appearance in 2014, will be captain and father figure to a youthful squad who are being tipped to make a big impression at the tournament. The vast experience of Dzeko, Bosnia's all-time leading goalscorer by a considerable margin and one of a World Cup-record eight players aged 40 or older selected to play at the tournament, will be crucial in the team's bid to escape the group. REUTERS

OPENING UP: Benjamin Tahirovic of Bosnia addresses the media ahead of the training session at Toronto Stadium on Thursday

TIME TO ASK APOLLO AI
SUMMER: DRAINED
Sweating out electrolytes can drain your energy by up to 30%.
Scan to stay energized
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WORLD CUP'S BILLION-EURO CLUB

The combined value of all 48 squads at 2026 World Cup has soared to a staggering €18.1 billion—up €3.1bn from Qatar 2022. Harry Kane's England headlines the value race as the most valuable squad at €1.45bn, with France next at €1.43bn. Bringing up the rear is Iran at €33m, with New Zealand at 47th spot (€35m). At €358 million, Spain's teenage sensation Lamine Yamal is the tournament's highest-valued player.

TOP 10 MOST VALUABLE WORLD CUP 2026 SQUADS

Rank		Value	
1	England	€1.45bn	₹16,046 cr
2	France	€1.43bn	15,847
3	Spain	€1.41bn	15,527
4	Germany	€1.10bn	11,974
5	Portugal	€910m	10,042
6	Netherlands	€853m	9,413
7	Brazil	€821m	9,060
8	Argentina	€764m	8,431
9	Belgium	€700m	7,725
10	Norway	€646m	7,129

(Source: CIES Football Observatory/ € 1 = ₹ 110.36)

THIS WE WIN: Kane's England tops the value chart for 2026

TOP 5 MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

Lamine Yamal (Spain)	Erling Haaland (Norway)	Kylian Mbappe (France)	Michael Olise (France)	Morgan Rogers (England)
₹3,580 cr	₹2,270 cr	₹1,660 cr	₹1,540 cr	₹1,400 cr

DEEMED TOO POLITICAL, HAITI FORCED TO CHANGE KIT OVER WAR IMAGERY

Los Angeles: Haiti have been forced to change their kit design just days before their World Cup opener against Scotland after FIFA banned a depiction of a war scene on the shirts. An illustration of the Battle of Vertieres in 1803, which secured Haiti's independence, with the Haitian flag had been embedded on the shirts worn by the players in two warm-up friendlies in Florida.

Colombian manufacturer Saeta said on Wednesday that they have modified the kit to meet FIFA's regulations. "The final design presented by Saeta was intended as a tribute to the men and women who contribute every day to Haiti's future and was not intended as a political statement," Saeta said in a statement posted on Instagram.

GERMAN PLAYERS TO PAY FOR 600 FANS' STADIUM TRIP

New York: German players have stepped up to ease fans' pain from soaring transport costs at the World Cup, offering to pay for 600 of them to travel by bus to their last Group E game against Ecuador in New Jersey on June 25, media reports said. City authorities hiked rail and bus fares from New York to the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. That triggered a backlash.

"In light of the high cost of bus and train travel, the German players have organised free transport to the final group match for 600 fans," the BBC reported.

"Captain Joshua Kimmich and his teammates are covering the cost of buses to take supporters from New York to the arena in New Jersey for the match against Ecuador."

SOMALI REFEREE ARTAN TO OFFICIATE UEFA SUPER CUP

New York: Somali referee Omar Abdulkadir Artan, who was is unable to take part in the World Cup after being denied entry to the United States, has been appointed to officiate next month's UEFA Super Cup between Paris St Germain and Aston Villa.

Artan, 34, was named among match officials for the June 11-July 19 World Cup but was forced to miss the tournament after U.S. authorities refused him entry despite having a valid visa.

UEFA body said on Thursday that his appointment for the Super Cup followed discussions with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and formed part of a recently signed cooperation agreement between the two bodies.

AFP

OUT IN NUMBERS: Mexican fans arrive at the Estadio Ciudad de Mexico to attend the World Cup opener in Mexico City

US primed to plant flag in 'home' opener vs Paraguay

Irvine (California): The long-awaited World Cup opener on home soil on Friday promises to contain deep shades of red, white, and blue for the United States men's national team.

US manager Mauricio Pochettino might be from Argentina, and goal-producing forward Folarin Balogun grew up in England after he was born in New York City, but star playmaker Christian Pulisic does hail from the all-American chocolate bar-producing town of Hershey, Pennsylvania.

USA VS PARAGUAY
6:30 am (Sat) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

The home fans are ready to embrace all of it when the USMNT takes on Paraguay to kick off Group D. It will be the first World Cup match on US soil in 32 years, since the 1994 Final was played just up the road in Pasadena. It was another eight years of waiting after the joint hosting bid from the United States, Canada, and Mexico was accepted.

The 26-man squad selected by Pochettino is evenly divided between 13 players with previous World Cup experience and 13 first-timers. And yet even those who have been there before know this one will be different.

"You say it's not our first rodeo, but it's our first one on home soil," US captain Tim Ream said. "I've tried to tell guys that this is a once-in-a-career opportunity. With that comes more expectation and more pressure, but at the same time, we have to enjoy it. There's nobody putting more expectation or more pressure on us than we are. That's the way that it should be, Ream said"

Ream, 38, is the only member of the team who remembers the 1994 World Cup.

Goalkeeper Matt Turner, who was born during that summer's event, was the only other player alive at the time.

That World Cup was a watershed moment for U.S. soccer. The Americans made it out of the group stage for the first time since 1934, inspiring a generation of young Americans in what was the second of six straight World Cup appearances after a 40-year absence between 1950 and 1990.

While the build-up has been rocky at times, there are signs the squad is hitting its stride.

The US defeated Senegal 3-2 on May 31 in Charlotte and was competitive in a 2-1 loss to four-time World Cup champion Germany in the final friendly Saturday at Chicago. REUTERS

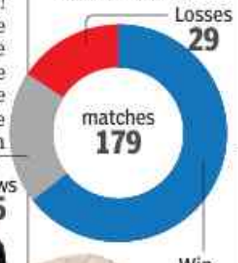
'As a leader, Kylian is talking more with the team'

Didier Deschamps has spent the last 14 years shaping one of international football's most formidable teams. A World Cup winner as both player and coach, the Frenchman enters the 2026 tournament seeking a third successive final appearance with *Les Bleus* before stepping down after the competition. In this exclusive conversation, Deschamps reflects on his remarkable journey, the transition to a new generation led by Kylian Mbappe, and the challenge of signing off with one last triumph. *Excerpts...*

TOI Print Exclusive

DESCHAMPS DOSSIER | Age **57**

VICTORIES AS FRANCE COACH



Appointed France coach **July 2012**

Major tournament finals reached: **4**

- **Only 3 men in football history** have won the World Cup both as a player (1998) and as a coach. Deschamps is one of them.

World Cup 2018 (Won)	World Cup 2022 (Runner-up)
Euro 2016 (Runner-up)	Nations League 2021 (Won)

> **Winning the World Cup is the best thing that can happen in anyone's life when you are associated with the game, be it as a captain or coach."**
> —Didier Deschamps

NONPAREIL: Deschamps and Mbappe look to lead France to their third succuessive final

Fourth World Cup on trot as the coach of France. How would you like to describe the journey?
Fascinating, I must say! We have reached back-to-back finals in 2018 and 2022, winning once. We reached the Euro final in 2016, too. The team played well consistently. We had a wonderful group of players replaced by another talented group. We did well, so I was there! It could have been different if we had not won so many matches.

Which one was more satisfying – winning the World Cup as a captain or as a coach?
Winning the World Cup is the best thing that can happen in anyone's life when you are associated with the game. Be it as a captain or coach, the feeling of lifting the trophy is out of the world. And to be able to lift it twice is indescribable! For me, at this moment, both the days are part of history now. We shall try to write a new page in the coming weeks. It's more important to focus on the immediate future than in the past.

Can France reach another World Cup final, the third, on trot?
We have the resources. We are considered as top favourites and that says we have played good football till now. But reaching another final will definitely be difficult, as always. It requires both - lot of courage and brilliant football.

This time you will no longer get the services of Hugo Lloris and Antoine Griezmann, your two trusted confidants...
Yes, but that's inevitable. They had done wonders for France football as well as for themselves. We had some spectacular nights when they were very important part of the team. But that's life, you have to accept it and go on. It's over to the new group of players now. They might not be as experienced, but they are exciting.

You'll be having a new captain as well. How different is captain Kylian Mbappe when compared to Lloris?
Kylian is different and it should be. He did not talk much as a player, loved to listen to what his teammates say. He was a keen observer who loved to show everything on the ground. That continues. However, he is talking to his players a bit more now! What he has already done on a football field is beyond comparison. He is ready to do more with his teammates.

France will start this new campaign against Senegal and nobody has forgotten what happened in 2002...
Yes, but that is history, too. Most of these players were not born then! So, there is no pressure on them now. It'll be a new tournament, a new match, new beginning. Past does not play any role here. We are in a strong group with Senegal, Iraq and Norway. All the matches will be difficult. We have to be alert from the word go.

You have already announced that you would no longer be in the French dugout after the 2026 World Cup...
Yes, I have been here for 14 long years. Managing a national team is completely different to managing a club. I have enjoyed every day here, which is the best part. We did win trophies, people were happy. French football acquired new heights. Now, I want to leave happily once the World Cup is over. I am yet to decide what to do after that, but this is no time to think over it. The World Cup is here and we have to be fully prepared to face the best opponents. ■ PMG

NONPAREIL: Deschamps and Mbappe look to lead France to their third succuessive final

WINGER DOKU LIKELY TO BE FIT FOR BELGIUM'S OPENER VS EGYPT

Renton: Belgium winger Jeremy Doku returned to practice on Wednesday, a day after reportedly leaving a training session early, as the team prepares for its World Cup opener against Egypt on Monday. The 24-year-old Doku, who plays for Manchester City, experienced some breathing issues on Tuesday during a closed practice, according to Belgian newspaper HLN. Before practice ended, Doku went inside the indoor facility of Seattle Sounders for precautionary reasons, the report said.

During the period of Wednesday's training session open to reporters, Doku was a full participant. Winger Alexis Saelemaekers said, "When Jeremy steps off the field, it is logical that there are immediate question marks," Saelemaekers said in French. "But it is nothing serious." Doku has represented Belgium on the international level since 2020. In 42 appearances for Belgium, Doku has scored seven goals. In World Cup qualifying in 2025, Doku scored a goal in a 4-3 win over Wales.

He put in two in a 7-0 victory over Liechtenstein, a result which clinched Belgium's berth in this year's World Cup. AGENCIES

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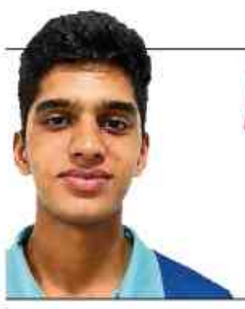

Rahul Dravid's son Anvay makes it to India U-19 squad for Lanka tour, starting July 4. He features in the One-day squad as one of the two wicket-keeping options

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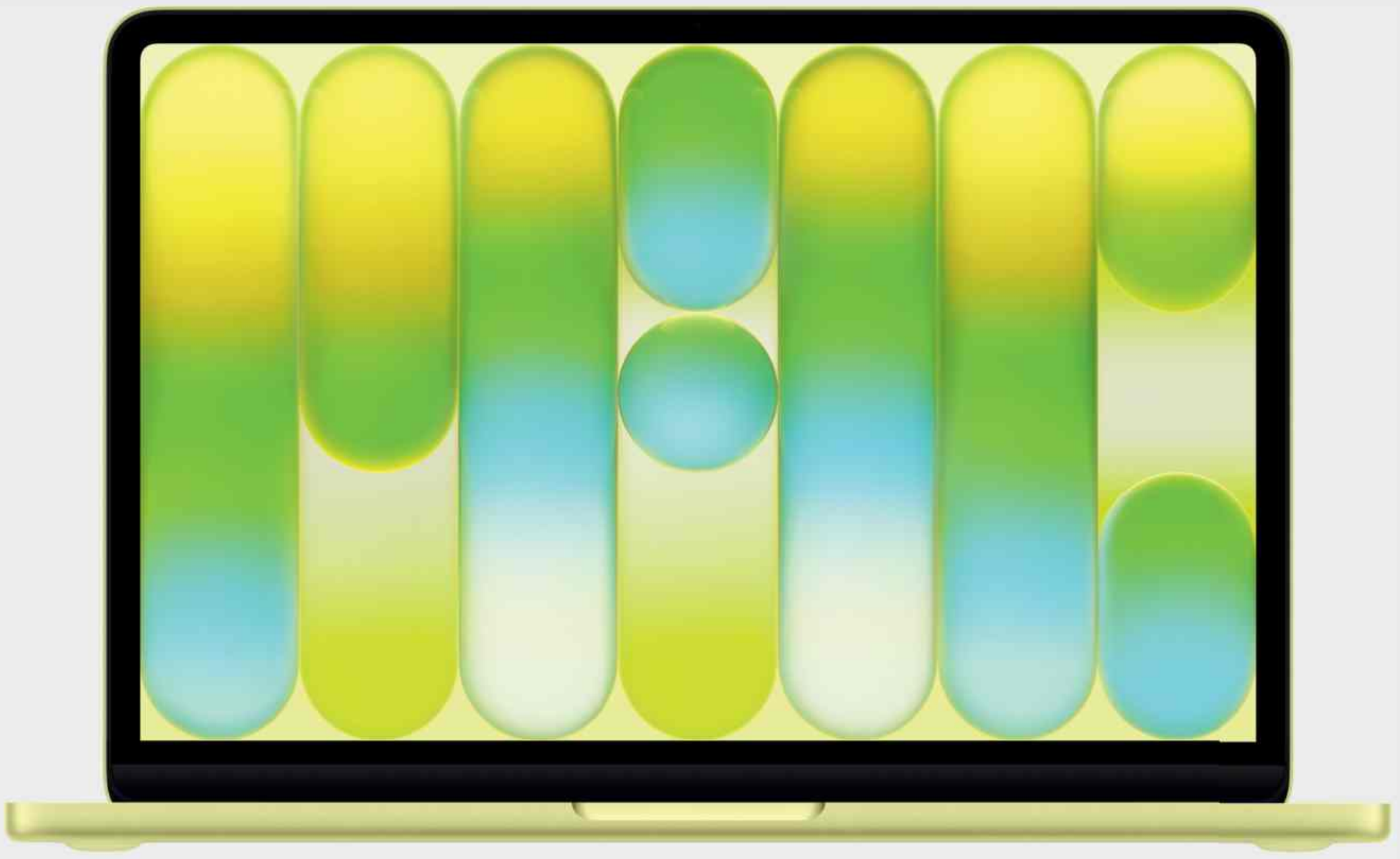

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CANADA INTRODUCES NEW DIGITAL SAFETY BILL THAT WILL BAN SOCIAL MEDIA FOR U-16 KIDS WITH EXEMPTIONS FOR PLATFORMS THAT MEET SAFETY STANDARDS 15

AMID UGLY WARS, A BEAUTIFUL TIME-OUT

Reuters

The opening ceremony for the 2026 World Cup, billed as the biggest football show ever, began in Mexico City's Estadio Azteca Thursday, ahead of the first match between Mexico and South Africa. The highlight of the ceremony was Colombian star Shakira (right, in yellow) and Nigerian singer Burna Boy performing "Dai Dai", the official song of the tournament, drawing roars from the crowd. Co-hosts Canada and the US will have their separate opening ceremonies. The stadium was a sea of dark green, with fans turning out in Mariachi costumes with trumpets, amid a backdrop of protests around the capital. Meanwhile, US homeland security secretary Markwayne Mullin defended Trump administration's visa denials to fans from several countries, saying it had conferred with Fifa officials but declining to discuss specific cases. In New York, residents braced for the influx of 1.2 million soccer fans | P 2, 16 & 17, EDIT PAGE

Main UAPA case against NewsClick remains: Police

Delhi Police has clarified that their main case against Newsclick, registered under UAPA, was not quashed and is at an advanced stage in court. ED and EOW will appeal against the HC order, which quashed FIR against the news portal and its founder over alleged foreign funding. The main case pertained to an alleged transnational conspiracy aimed at undermining the unity and integrity of India. P 7

Husband seeking divorce must prove cruelty claim: HC

The high court has overturned a Bidar family court's order granting a man divorce, ruling that cruelty must be proven with reliable evidence by the spouse seeking dissolution of marriage. It found the court accepted the husband's claims without sufficient proof while rejecting the wife's allegations for lack of proof. P 5

IIT-K hires teen who flagged CBSE flaws

Nisarga Adhikary, 19, who kicked up a storm after flagging flaws in CBSE's on-screen marking system, has landed a job at IIT Kanpur. He has been hired as Open-Source Intelligence and threat intelligence engineer at C3iHub, its cybersecurity innovation hub. Inside Flap

Rescued paraglider from Hollywood

The severely injured paraglider rescued by IAF from the mountaintops of Himachal Pradesh's Deo Tibba region in Kullu has turned out to be Hollywood cinematographer George Richmond, who has worked in movies such as 'Deadpool & Wolverine' Inside Flap

B'deshi spends night in no-man's land

A Bangladeshi man caught in a stand-off between BSF and BGB, returned to his homeland Thursday after spending the night in no-man's land along the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya. Sati Rajbanshi was allegedly attempting to illegally cross into India. TNN

Gym trainer in Hry shot 10 times

A 25-year-old gym trainer died after he was shot 10 times at point-blank range during an outdoor session in Haryana's Hansi town. A social media post purportedly linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang claimed responsibility. Police are verifying its authenticity. P 7

Kerala reports Nipah case; 15 in quarantine

Kerala authorities has confirmed Nipah infection in a 43-year-old patient on ventilator support. The patient's 77 contacts have been traced, with 15 in high-risk categories placed under quarantine. P 6

Despite oppn, K'taka govt notifies 500 acres for Bidadi township

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PROJECT IN NUTSHELL

- **Name:** Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT)
- **Estimated Cost:** ₹20,000 crore
- **Land Requirement:** 7,500 acres across 9 villages in Ramanagara and Harohalli taluks
- **Villages Affected:** Bhyramangala, Bannigiri, Vaderahalli, Kanchugaranahalli, Kempayyana Palya, KG Gollara Palya, Hosur, Mandalahalli, Aralalusandra
- **Compensation:** ₹2.07cr to ₹2.5cr per acre / Option of up to 50% share in developed land

Bengaluru: Notwithstanding opposition from farmers and political parties against the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) near Bidadi in Bengaluru South district, Karnataka govt Thursday issued the final notification for the acquisition of nearly 500 acres in three villages in Ramanagara and Harohalli taluks.

The move signals the state's resolve to push ahead with one of CM DK Shivakumar's most ambitious urban development projects — second only to the proposed tunnel road project in terms of scale and political significance — despite growing unrest among farmers who fear the loss of fertile farmland, livelihoods and rural character of the region. The township, estimated to cost over Rs 20,000 cr, is envisioned as a sprawling work-live-play urban hub on the city's outskirts. Terming it "India's first AI City", the CM has projected it as a futuristic township that would redefine urban living.

▶367 acres earmarked, P 2

Minor girl battles alone against rapist father, gets him convicted

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

LONE FIGHT

- **Daily wage worker gets 20-yr jail term** for raping daughter
- **Court also imposes ₹1.1 lakh fine;** convict is in Bengaluru Central Prison since June 2023
- After the incident, **survivor fled her house and spent the night hiding in a nearby park**
- Following morning, **with the help of an auto driver, she filed a police complaint**
- Minor remained firm through three-year legal battle despite **no family support**
- **Prosecution highly commended the teenager's mental fortitude** during trial

Bengaluru: A city court on Wednesday sentenced a daily wage worker to 20 years of simple imprisonment for raping his 16-year-old daughter, ending a three-year legal battle in which the minor survivor stood resolute despite getting no support from her mother and immediate family. The mother even reprimanded the girl for registering a rape case against her father.

Along with the sentence, Special Judge S Sujata imposed a fine of Rs 1.1 lakh on the convict, who has been lodged in Bengaluru Central Prison since he was arrested in June 2023.

The convict, a daily wage labourer from Bihar, lived with his wife and four children in north Bengaluru. The survivor is his eldest daughter, who had dropped out of school after Class IX and shifted to a relative's house in Uttar Pradesh after he repeatedly pressured her to get married.

▶Mom refused, P 3

For payout, SC pegs housewife 'income' at ₹30,000 a month

New Delhi: Calling housewives "nation builders", Supreme Court for the first time said in case of a homemaker's death in an accident, the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal will calculate the compensation to be paid to her family by assuming her monthly income to be a minimum of Rs 30,000, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra**.

Pained by the 25-year delay, 22 of which were because the matter remained pending in Punjab and Haryana HC, in grant of compensation to the family of a homemaker who died in an accident on Nov 25, 2001, SC said the economy and stability of a house was wholly dependent on the woman and enhanced compensation from Rs 8.4 lakh to Rs 63 lakh, with interest of 7.5% from 2001.

▶'Nation builders', P 14

For ₹2cr insurance, wife & boyfriend plotted murder of ex-serviceman

Belagavi: Another March murder, another mystery. Days after Bengaluru girl Vennela's murder was cracked, an ex-serviceman's death under suspicious circumstances that had cops in knots has been solved, **reports Ravindra Uppar**.

Aided by intelligent observation of the sequence of events and investigations, Belagavi police solved the death of former serviceman Sandeep Manjaragi, 46. The key motive: Suma, 40, allegedly wanted to eliminate her husband so that she and her boyfriend, Pundalik Dombar, 26, could lead an unhindered life; also, she was eyeing his Rs 2-crore insurance amount. The duo reportedly confessed to the crime. They have not been arrested yet.

▶Fed pesticide, P 2

Mother traced to farmouse after 7-day manhunt

Bengaluru: Following an intensive seven-day search, Bengaluru police on Thursday morning arrested advocate P Priyanka, who is accused of murdering her six-year-old daughter in alleged collusion with her realtor-boyfriend. She was traced to Sakaleshpur in Hassan district, 220 km from Bengaluru.

A court remanded her in five days of police custody.

Acting on specific intelligence, a police team tracked her to a farmhouse in Sakaleshpur and detained her around 7.30am. She was formally arrested after being served a police notice. TNN

▶Shifted twice, P 2

He got stuck in Aus during Covid. Now, he's in their nat'l cricket team

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ODI CHAMPIONS EYE T20 CROWN

Harmanpreet Kaur-led India, reigning 50-over champions, will look to add another title as the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup begins in Birmingham today,** with England playing Sri Lanka in the opener. **India plays its first game against Pakistan** in Birmingham **Sunday** | P 16

During this year's IPL, **Nikhil Chaudhary,** 30, was travelling with Delhi Capitals as a net bowler, with an outside chance of landing a franchise contract. He took a few days off to visit his family and childhood coach Charanjeet Bhangu in his hometown Ludhiana. Suddenly, he cut his India trip short, with a promise to his coach. "Sir, I have to join an Australian team camp. You'll soon get some big news."

Chaudhary broke the big news to Bhangu on Thursday morning. He became the first Indian-born male cricketer in six decades to be named in an Australian international team as the selectors picked him as a leg-spinning allrounder to join the T20I team, currently playing in Bangladesh. Lisa Sthalekar, born in Pune, has already led Australia in women's cricket.

The selection was the latest milestone in an amazing journey for the Delhi-born Chaudhary, who made his debut for Punjab in 2017. In 2020, he was visiting his uncle in Queensland when the world went into lockdown due to Covid-19. Unable to return, Chaudhary played some club matches in Brisbane as Australia eased restrictions. Soon, his talent got noticed. He hasn't looked back.

▶Oz cricket demands, P 16

NMC flipflops, puts onus of patient appeals on health min

5 Months Ago, Panel Had Said Will Hear Pleas

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Since Sept 2020, when NMC was constituted, it has received 273 patient appeals against state medical council decisions. They've all been rejected

National Medical Commission (NMC) continues its flipflop over whether patients and their families should be allowed to file appeals before it.

The commission decided in Sept 2024 that its ethics board would entertain all appeals, including those filed by non-medicos, and confirmed this decision in Dec 2025. Five months later, in May, the ethics board claimed any interpretation of the provisions of NMC Act ought to be done by the health ministry.

"NMC had agreed that all appeals received by Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) will be entertained. Further, as regards action not being taken by state medical councils (SMC) on complaints filed by non-medicos even after issuance of reminders by the boards, it was decided to send a communication by EMRB to state medical councils to complete the process in a timebound manner. In case of failure by the concerned SMC to act upon it, EMRB may take over the complaint/matter from the SMC and dispose of the same. This is noted by EMRB, and board will proceed further accordingly," read minutes of the 16th meeting of NMC held on Sept 3, 2024. This was reiterated in the 17th meeting on Dec 16, 2025.

However, NMC chairperson Abhijat Sheth, when asked why NMC, as an autonomous body, was seeking the health ministry's interpretation for what was decided in the NMC meeting, claimed wider stakeholder consultation and examination of statutory/regulatory provisions was going on. "NMC has not framed an SOP in this regard yet," he added.

When the ministry was asked to intervene on behalf of patients to allow appeals before NMC, the ministry stated the commission was the apex statutory body constituted under the 2019 Act to regulate medical education and the profession. "All matters relating to framing, amendment, and implementation of medical education regulations fall within the domain of NMC," it said.

"There would be issues if unrestricted appeals are allowed and the members/experts are also deliberating the need for a filtering mechanism. Meanwhile, patients and complainants are not left without remedies. They can also avail other legal remedies under applicable civil, criminal or consumer laws," said Sheth.

Since Sept 2020, when NMC was constituted, it has received 273 patient appeals against SMC decisions. They have all been rejected. That's around 55 complaints a year or one a week on average that the chairperson claims need a filtering mechanism.

NMC initially insisted only doctors had the right to appeal before it. However, clause 8.8 of the ethics regulation of 2002, which is still in force, allows patients and their families to appeal before the commission. The incorporation of this clause in the regulation was the result of a Supreme Court order.

MP reserve staff stole livestock to feed tigers, say villagers

Bhopal: A large number of villagers from the Gurjar community protested outside Survaya police station in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district late Tuesday, accusing Madhav National Park staff of stealing livestock from villages around the reserve to feed tigers, reports **P Naveen**.

However, the tiger reserve dismissed the accusations as "baseless" and attributed them to recent enforcement action against some villagers for unauthorised grazing in the protected area.

The protesters alleged that a buffalo calf owned by one Sangram Singh Gurjar was loaded into a vehicle by reserve staff. They said an elderly resident witnessed the animal being taken away by forest personnel. The protest ended around 1am after police registered a theft case against unidentified persons.

The incident triggered anger in villages surrounding the reserve, where locals claim livestock has frequently gone missing in recent months. Villagers said they had earlier assumed wild predators were attacking cattle but now suspect the animals may have been stolen by reserve management to feed tigers.

However, field director Uttam Sharma said villagers were repeatedly entering the reserve with livestock despite restrictions. Forest teams recently found villagers grazing cattle near the tiger enclosure in the Balarpur area, following which four villagers were booked under Wildlife Protection Act. The reserve is home to seven tigers.

Teen who flagged CBSE flaws lands full-time job at IIT-K

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New Delhi: Most teenagers fresh out of Class XII are still picking a college. Nisarga Adhikary, all of 19, has instead landed a job at one of India's top engineering institutions — the brilliant young man even thinks the salary isn't quite what he had in mind.

Adhikary, who cleared his board exams only this year, has been hired by IIT Kanpur as an Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) and threat intelligence engineer at C3iHub, its cybersecurity innovation hub. The job materialised after the storm he kicked up over CBSE's digital exam system.

Earlier this year, as the board rolled out on-screen marking (OSM) system— under which examiners grade scanned answer sheets online — Adhikary began probing the publicly accessible parts of the set-up. He says he found serious loopholes: a master password sitting in plain sight in the portal's code, an OTP check that ran on the user's own browser and a flaw that let one user retrieve another's records. Adhikary also flagged a cloud bucket that, by his account, left scanned answer sheets and question papers open to anyone online.

WUNDERKIND

He reported it all to CERT-In in Feb before going public, and the disclosures snowballed into a national debate over exam security.

His blog post caught the eye of IIT Kanpur director Manindra Agrawal. "We are always scouting for talent that can help us build a stronger cybersecurity wall," Agrawal told **TOI**, adding the institute had quietly inducted a few young engineers into the same team years ago. He could not confirm whether Adhikary was the youngest hire, though he was definitely among them.

The director left no room for confusion about Adhikary's profile. "He is on a full-time job, not here to study." On the salary, which neither side put a number to, Agrawal said it was fixed in accordance with the institute's analysis.

Adhikary, according to reports, was less guarded. Used to dollar-paying projects for US firms, he said while the salary was decent, it was a shade short of his expectations. When asked if the teen who exposed CBSE would be deployed on the board's systems given that IIT Kanpur works for the board, Agrawal said, "That will hinge on future requirements..."

'Deadpool 3' cinematographer rescued from HP peak, undergoes spinal surgery

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Chandigarh: The paraglider rescued by IAF from the remote mountains of Kullu's Deo Tibba region in Himachal Pradesh turned out to be Hollywood cinematographer George Richmond — the visual mastermind behind blockbusters such as 'Deadpool & Wolverine', 'Free Guy' and the Elton John biopic, 'Rocketman'.

Severely injured in the crash, the 54-year-old had spinal surgery on Thursday at PGIMER, Chandigarh.

The accident occurred on Tuesday at an altitude of 12,000ft. Richmond was on a 'bivouac flying' adventure — a style of cross-country paragliding where pilots fly by day and camp in remote wilderness by night. Having taken off from the paragliding site at Bir Billing, he crashed on Monday during a difficult take-off attempt from the base of Mt Deo Tibba.

Fellow paragliders alerted the Kullu administration, which informed the British embassy. Two IAF helicopters flew in to evacuate Richmond. Within hours, he was flown to Bhuntar airport and then shifted to Kullu Regional Hospital. After initial stabilisation, he was flown to the advanced trauma centre at PGIMER, 220km away, as a high-priority 'red-alert' emergency.

The surgery was performed by a multidisciplinary team of neurosurgeons, orthopaedic spine specialists and cardiac anaesthetists.

In Madras Medical College, half a head from 1952 murder still a forensic lesson

Pushpa.Narayan
@timesofindia.com

FRAGMENTS OF HISTORY

Chennai: Jar No M11. Half a head floating in formalin, full mystery. Inside an old cupboard at Madras Medical College's forensic museum sits the specimen. No file. No paperwork. No official note explaining why a human head, long cut in half, rests there.

Yet generations of forensic teachers have passed down the same story — that face once belonged to pen salesman C Alavandar whose murder in 1952 shocked Madras and became a classic case study in decapitation and identification before DNA, computers and genetic profiling.

Part crime story, part medical folklore, the case survives in textbooks, lecture halls and fading newspaper archives. It also survives quietly in a glass jar. Few body parts preserved as evidence have enjoyed such an afterlife. Around the world, museums display fragments tied to history and notoriety — brains, bones, skulls and dissected remains preserved for science, medicine or memory. Chennai's M11 belongs to that strange fraternity: a relic that still teaches decades after courtrooms emptied and headlines faded.

The story began on Aug 29, 1952. A foul smell seeped from a green steel trunk aboard the Indo-Ceylon Express, better known as Boat Mail — a rail-and-sea service that connected then Madras to Colombo. The Railway police opened it at Manamadurai, 53km southeast of Madurai, and found a headless male torso. Days later, a severed head buried in sand turned up off Royapuram in Madras.

Both were sent to Madras Medical College. No DNA. No genetic databases. No forensic software. Assistant professor of forensic medicine Dr CB Gopalakrishnan relied on anatomy. "He matched the cut neck vertebrae of the head and the torso, bone against bone. When he was satisfied it was the same person, he looked at the other basics — age and build — and small personal details such as ear-piercing," recalled Dr C Manohar, a retired professor.

Those details mattered. Alavandar, in his 40s when he was killed, had an unusual pattern of ear-piercing — two holes in right earlobe, one in the left. He also bore a mark on a leg, said Dr Manivasagam Muthusamy, associate professor at Govt Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital in Salem. His wife identified the face. Fingerprints were matched against British-era military records from WWI service before he joined Gem & Co in Parrys as a salesman.

"There was no DNA or fancy scientific tests, but at that time, there was really no room for doubt about who that head and torso belonged to," Dr Manohar added.

Police stitched together corroborative evidence: a missing-person complaint filed by Alavandar's wife, witness accounts and his last known visit to a modest house on Cemetery Road in Madras. Investigation led to Devaki Menon and her husband Prabhakara Menon. According to prosecution, Alavandar, who also ran a sari business, cultivated relationships with several women and continued pursuing Devaki after her marriage. On Aug 28, 1952, he went to her home. Prosecutors said he was killed there. His head was severed using a "Malabar knife" and buried on Royapuram beach. The torso was packed into a trunk and sent away by train.

Prabhakara was sentenced to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and Devaki to three years in prison.

Evidence outlived everyone. Then came another cut. No one today knows exactly when. No records explain why. But somewhere along the way, the original specimen was divided once more. One half remained in Chennai. Other half was sent to Madurai, where the torso had been moved, allowing another medical college to teach from the same head.